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AGAINST THE ODDS

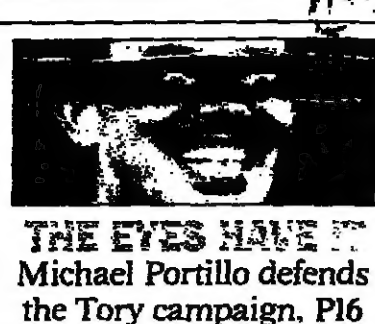
Walter Swinburn's heroic comeback to racing
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THESE SHOES WERE MADE FOR BUYING

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PRESCRIPTION FOR PROBLEMS

Dr Thomas Stafford on the power of fertility drugs, PAGE 6

'Calm, rational decisions are needed'

Doctor warns of danger to octuplets

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND CAROL MIDGLEY

THE consultant treating Mandy Allwood yesterday called for her to be left in peace, for fear that excessive public interest could harm her and her eight unborn babies.

Miss Allwood, who is 14 weeks pregnant, has been advised that she could earn up to £1 million if all eight survived and she has signed a contract with *The News of the World*, but Professor Kypros Nicolaides yesterday urged the newspaper to withdraw from the deal, saying it could affect her judgment.

"There is a potential indirect danger to the babies, and also there is the problem that it will be very hard to make calm, rational decisions about a matter of life and death," he said.

Miss Allwood, 31, has said that she wants to go ahead with the pregnancy in the face of advice that she should allow some foetuses to be aborted to give the others a better chance of survival. And yesterday her sister, Jackie Burgess, confirmed that that was still her view. "She doesn't want any prodding and poking around and getting rid of this, that or the other. She believes they stand a chance of being born."

"At the moment, they are all healthy and as they should be. She's just going to try and hang on to them for as long as she can. She's just hoping to get to 24 weeks so there is a chance they will all survive."

However, MPs and medical experts have expressed concern that Miss Allwood's determination to continue with the pregnancy may have been



"Tragic really — 30 in one go and she forgot to call Max Clifford"

influenced by her financial contract with *The News of the World* and the publicist Max Clifford — although Mr Clifford denied yesterday that she amount of cash she received would depend on how many babies were born alive.

Professor Nicolaides, who took over Miss Allwood's case after the multiple pregnancy had been diagnosed, said that most people faced with a multiple birth opted for selective reduction, and while he said there were no right or wrong decisions, he added: "I am not aware of a single case in history where somebody successfully delivered eight babies."

"There are major decisions which need to be taken with regard to the management of the whole pregnancy, but I do not believe these decisions should be influenced by external factors, including financial

considerations. If you have a pregnancy with eight foetuses and you add to that the fact that every decision you take is going to be scrutinised and questioned and talked about by politicians, your family, other groups and the world's media, then it is even more stressful."

"The likelihood of all the babies being born alive is very small, and the media make it even more difficult to treat such a case. I urge all of the media to let this story settle now." Asked if he would like *The News of the World* to withdraw, he said: "Very much so."

Professor Nicolaides, head of foetal medicine at King's College Hospital, London, added that he might go to the Press Complaints Commission if his patient remained in the spotlight.

However, *The News of the World* — whose representatives are guarding Miss Allwood at a "safe house" in the Home Counties — said that she was entirely satisfied with their agreement. It provided "not only substantial financial security, but other practical support too", but if she decided to withdraw, the newspaper would not stand in her way. Stuart Kuttner, the paper's managing editor, added: "She is a mature lady who has taken a decision about her own life."

Roger Gale, chairman of the Conservative backbench media committee, also said that

Mother's plea, page 6
Leading article, page 17



A fireman rescues children in the centre of Folkestone yesterday. The town had 24 in of rain — the average for a month — in seven hours

August monsoon brings flood chaos

By STEPHEN FARRELL AND KATE ALDERSON

EUROPE'S August monsoon showed no sign of relenting yesterday. A traveller returning from a soaking few days in Italy, Switzerland or Spain would have been greeted on his return across the Channel with the sight of flooded streets in Kent.

Firefighters had to use boats to rescue people from buildings standing in up to 6 ft of water. Cars and motorcycles were swept away and six people were injured in Folkestone when a shop collapsed as 2.4 in of rain — the monthly average — fell on the town in seven hours.

Folkestone was the area worst hit by

the freak storms as an underground pipe channelling a stream broke under the pressure and burst into the sewerage system.

Telephone and electricity lines were cut and traffic on the M20 was halted by poor visibility.

One witness, David Hebditch, said: "It was all so quick. One minute there was just spatterings of rain after an earlier thunderstorm, then the waters just started to go up and up."

Geoffrey Cooper, for Kent Fire Brigade, said: "We had stories of collapsed sewers, widespread flooding and we even mobilised our two inland boats to help to rescue people from first-floor buildings. The water pressure swept away manhole covers and

one out-building in a park in Folkestone collapsed."

Hythe and Ashford were without electricity after a lightning strike cut supplies. The Eurostar rail services through the Channel Tunnel were among trains delayed because signalling at Ashford was affected.

Kent Fire Brigade took one emergency call every 20 seconds as rescue workers searched collapsed buildings to make sure no one was trapped. More than 40 people were rescued and nine were taken to hospital.

The downpour was caused by a low pressure system in the North Sea and light winds over east Kent which kept thunder clouds overhead instead of driving them inland.

Although the rest of Britain was unaffected, some areas basking in warm sunshine, thunderstorms have swept the continent including northern France, the Low Countries, Alps, Austria and the Balkans.

Tuscany, where the Labour leader Tony Blair is holidaying, was hit by storms over the weekend but escaped yesterday. John Major, in Cannes, enjoyed finer weather.

A power cut in Manchester's city centre stopped traffic lights, forced Granada Television off air and left 10,000 customers in shops, offices and homes without electricity for 20 minutes yesterday.

Forecast, page 24

Buchanan backs Dole campaign

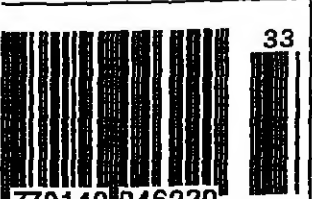
The Republican party convention opened with another boost for Bob Dole when Pat Buchanan abandoned his threat to form a breakaway party, declared a temporary truce in his war with the Republican establishment, and ordered his rebel army to start working for President Clinton's defeat. Page 13

Lloyd's names action delayed

Rebel names were granted extra time to prepare their legal challenge against Lloyd's of London, after a judge said that the action could have an "explosive" effect. Lloyd's said that victory for the group representing 3,000 names, would kill a proposed £32 billion rescue package. Page 25

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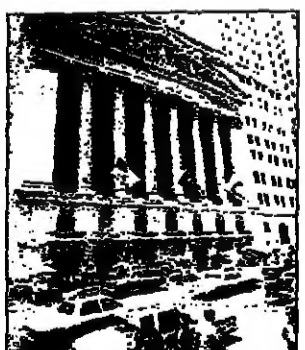


Wall St speculates on a new home

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE New York Stock Exchange is considering a move from its headquarters on Manhattan's Wall Street.

The exchange, pillar of Western capitalism, said yesterday that shortage of space and the difficulty of installing modern office equipment in its



Manhattan's pillar of Western capitalism

landmark building were the reasons. "We are in the early stages of examining our needs," said Andrew Yemina, a spokesman.

The classical-style exchange, built in 1903, is a splendid curiosity amid Manhattan's skyscrapers. Its revival columns, a draw for tourist bus tours, embodied the exchange's status as a temple to deal-making. It survived the First World War, when the exchange closed, and it overcame the crash of 1929.

Inside, however, working conditions have not kept pace with technology. In the Eighties, when so much business could be done on computer screens, some of the great brokerage houses moved to Manhattan's Midtown. Despite the diaspora, "Wall Street" remains the generic term for the city's financial community.

Tension rises as Serbs veto bid to seize Mladic

By MICHAEL EVANS AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE

BOSNIAN Serbs refused to allow Nato forces access to a heavy weapons site in what is thought to be an attempt to prevent the arrest of General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb army commander.

Their refusal is in breach of the Dayton peace accord. The weapons site at Han Pijesak, east of Sarajevo, is the headquarters of General Mladic, who has been indicted on war crimes charges by the international war crimes tribunal at The Hague. General Mladic is believed to have been at the Han Pijesak site, a series of heavy weapons bunkers, when the Nato inspection team tried to gain access last Friday.

The Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor) of 52,000 troops has orders to arrest on sight General Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian

Serb leader, who recently was forced to step down as President. Dr Karadzic has also been indicted as an alleged war criminal.

After a three-day stand-off with the Serbs at Han Pijesak, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the British Ifor commander, put into immediate operation a comprehensive security plan, codenamed Operation Fear Naught, for all Nato ground forces in Bosnia.

As tension rose yesterday, the Serbs appeared to back down. Biljana Plavsic, who replaced Dr Karadzic as Serb President, said Nato would be allowed to inspect the site. She was speaking after a meeting with Peter Feith, political adviser to Admiral Joseph Lopez, overall Nato commander of the Bosnian operation. The inspection was expected to take place in the next 24 to 48

hours, Mr Feith said in Pale, the Serb stronghold.

Under Operation Fear Naught, all troops in isolated positions in Republika Srpska, the autonomous province created under Dayton, were ordered yesterday to pull back to secure Ifor bases. An Ifor official said: "We have a lot of troops in small units acting in a liaison role or working with civilians. As a precautionary measure, General Walker has ordered them all to withdraw to larger, more secure areas."

The general also recommended that all non-governmental organisations and other international civilian bodies should withdraw their foreign staff from Republika Srpska as soon as possible. UN police officers on Serb territory were ordered to pull back to peace force bases.

New law makes it easier to marry in haste

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

COUPLES will soon be able to marry in register offices in under four minutes. The 49-word vows at the legal heart of civil marriage have been cut to 30 to make the archaic language easier to understand.

The Royal Assent has been given to an Act that changes the form of words used in most marriage ceremonies in

England and Wales. Isobel Macdonald Davies, Deputy Registrar-General for England and Wales, said: "These words... give people choice." But, she added, couples often chose poetry and other readings to supplement the legally required words. Most register office weddings take from 15 to 30 minutes.

The new form is for use in register offices and Roman Catholic and Free churches. The Church of England,

Church in Wales, Quakers and Jewish community can legally use their own words.

Under the Marriage Act 1949, the words are: Declaration: "I do solemnly declare that I know not of any lawful impediment why I, AB, may not be joined in matrimony to CD." Words of Contract: "I call upon these persons here present to witness that I, AB, do take thee, CD, to be my lawful

wedded wife (or husband)." Under the Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Act 1996, the words are: Declaration: "I declare that I know of no legal reason why I [name] may not be joined in marriage to [name]." Alternatively the couple may answer "I am" to the question "Are you [name] free lawfully to marry [name]?" Words of Contract: "I [name] take you [name] to be my wedded wife (or husband)."

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Anti-crime Bills boost Howard's claim to inherit

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MICHAEL HOWARD is preparing to introduce four substantial Bills in the autumn in a move that seems certain to enhance his stature on the right of the party.

The Home Secretary will be at the centre of political debate in the last months of the current Parliament as he unveils Bills for minimum sentences for drug dealers and burglars and automatic life sentences for second-time rapists; for a voluntary identity card scheme; and for a crime squad to tackle organised crime. His fourth Bill will contain measures to tighten controls on guns.

For one Cabinet minister to have four big Bills in any parliamentary session is unusual. But for Mr Howard to achieve that in a Parliament that will inevitably be cut short by the general election means that he will have the highest profile of any senior minister in the vital months before polling.

The Cabinet is understood to have given Mr Howard approval in principle to introduce the Bills and he is



Howard: wins whatever the election result

reported to be determined to use them to strengthen the Conservatives' law and order credentials in the election, which will almost certainly take place next April or May.

If the Conservatives lose the election there is likely to be a leadership battle within weeks as John Major stands down. Influential Conservative MPs believe that it is simplistic to see the fight for

the right-wing vote as between John Redwood and Michael Portillo.

Some members of the 1922 Committee executive say that Mr Howard, who has been scrupulously loyal to Mr Major, is emerging as a candidate for the Right's vote because of his strong Euro-scepticism and backing for various rightwing causes. But they also believe that he will appeal to a wider section of the party if it concludes that Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine are barred by their pro-Europeanism.

Mr Howard's supporters believe that his inevitable clash with the Labour Party and the judiciary over his plans for minimum sentences will do nothing to harm Conservative prospects in the election, or his own in the event of a Conservative defeat. Mr Howard is likely to try to put Labour MPs on the spot by challenging them to help him to get the Bill through speedily.

If he fails he will ensure that law and order is a central issue of the election by announcing that the plans will be re-pledged in the manifesto.

Mr Howard's Bills will be:
 □ A criminal justice Bill that will introduce the concept of minimum sentences, already attacked by judges for compromising their independence. Persistent burglars will have minimum sentences of three years after being convicted three times, and drug dealers seven years after being convicted three times. There will be automatic life sentences for second-time rapists and serious sexual offenders. There will be proposals for a national sex offenders register and a ban on convicted paedophiles applying for jobs with children.
 □ A measure to bring in a voluntary ID card based on the photocard driving licence that will come into use next year. It will also serve as a travel pass through the European Union.
 □ A Bill to set up a national police squad to target organised crime, which would start operating by 1998. It will work alongside the National Criminal Intelligence Service, which would be expanded.
 □ A measure to enforce greater accountability in police budgeting and electronic surveillance operations.
 □ A guns measure. There is a growing likelihood that much stronger controls, possibly including a ban on handguns, will be recommended by the Cullen inquiry into the Dunblane shootings. Mr Howard has let it be known that he is likely to follow closely any of the inquiry's recommendations.



Bellaghy residents watching loyalists march through the village yesterday

Unionists and nationalists agree deal over parade

By Nicholas Watt, Chief Ireland Correspondent

A TENSE stand-off between hundreds of nationalists and Unionists in Co Londonderry ended peacefully yesterday when the two sides reached an agreement over a contentious loyalist parade.

More than 400 members of the Royal Black Preceptory marched along a shortened route through the village of Bellaghy after hammering out a compromise with local nationalists during 18 hours of negotiations. The loyalists, who had been separated from the nationalists throughout Sunday night by police in riot gear, marched up to Bellaghy's Orange Hall in full view of hundreds of local nationalists. A few nationalists and Unionists joined as

the Blackmen turned round to march back into the centre of the village.

John Junkin, a Blackman who is also an Ulster Unionist councillor, said he was delighted that the stand-off ended peacefully. "I think common sense prevailed. It can only be a good omen for the future that there was no conflict," Paul Smith, spokesman for the nationalist residents, also described the agreement as a victory for common sense. "We thrashed out everything we could with them. We talked through many different ways of trying to resolve this. We reckoned this is the most sensible."

The agreement in Bellaghy came after a weekend of

contentious marches throughout Northern Ireland passed off peacefully, although there were minor disturbances in Londonderry and in Co Antrim on Saturday night. Nationalist and Unionist leaders took heart that there was no repeat of last month's disturbances during the stand-off at Drumcree.

The next major series of marches will take place on August 31 when 30,000 members of the Royal Black Institution hold their annual Last Saturday of August marches. The main parades will take place in Protestant areas, but there could be sectarian clashes at a series of smaller parades which act as "feeders" to the main marches.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tube strike is off as unions vote on deal

Today's planned strike on the London Underground was called off yesterday as union leaders agreed to canvass members on a new deal that would give workers a 35-hour week. But the two unions involved in the dispute have split on the proposal. Aslef, which represents the majority of London Underground drivers, is recommending agreement, while the RMT transport union is urging its members to reject the deal.

The unions are to hold ballots to gauge the feeling of their membership with results to be known by August 21, two days ahead of the next planned one-day strike. The deal would cut drivers' hours from 38½ to 35 a week and 180 new drivers would be recruited.

No 10 man for Goldsmith

Ian Beaumont, 38, a former 10 Downing Street aide, has been appointed chief press officer of the Referendum Party by Sir James Goldsmith in what will be seen as something of a coup for the billionaire financier. Mr Beaumont spent seven years in the No 10 press office, working for Margaret Thatcher and John Major, before joining the Metropolitan Police press team two years ago. He replaces Michael Guntton, who steps down for health reasons.

Barclay judgment

Guernsey's Bailiff, Sir Graham Dorey, has decided to reserve his judgment on whether the Crown can be allowed to become a second defendant in an action brought by the Barclay twins. The Barclay brothers, who have just moved into a £40m castle on Brechou, are seeking to remove their tiny Channel island from the jurisdiction of neighbouring Sark, especially the latter's feudal inheritance laws.

Scots want wide poll

Most Scots want the option of voting for full independence if there is to be a referendum on constitutional change, the Scottish National Party said yesterday. Alex Salmond, its leader, hailed a poll for the party which showed people favoured — by a majority of six to one — being given the chance to vote for independence. He said that if there was a constitutional referendum, the option of independence must be tested.

BA jet 'wing crack' alert

A jumbo jet made an emergency landing at Heathrow after a passenger spotted a crack in the wing, an official report revealed yesterday. The captain of a British Airways 747 decided the split in a fibreglass panel looked "bad" as the Boston-bound jet reached 15,000 feet after take-off, said the report by the Government's Air Accidents Investigation Branch. A BA spokesman described the fault as "minor".

16 injured in tram crash

Up to 16 people were injured when a lorry and a tram collided in Manchester city centre during last night's rush hour. Police said 13 people on the Metrolink tram suffered slight injuries in the accident at the junction of Corporation Street and Miller Street. One man suffered serious rib injuries. The Dutch lorry driver and a passenger were also hurt.

Wilder stage debut

The Hollywood actor Gene Wilder, star of *Blazing Saddles* and *The Woman in Red*, made his British stage debut last night at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford, Surrey. He takes the lead role in the new Neil Simon comedy *Laughter on the 23rd Floor*. The play comes to the Queen's theatre, London, in October after a provincial tour that includes Norwich and Bath.

Rival for Madden

The left-wing Labour MP Max Madden faces a challenge from Britain's first Asian Lord Mayor for his Bradford West seat. Mr Madden, 55, has reversed an earlier decision to retire from Parliament at the next election. Mohammed Ajeesh, 58, who became Lord Mayor of Bradford 11 years ago, said he intended to be among the challengers to be Labour's candidate.

Geoff Hamilton tribute

Geoff Hamilton's identical twin paid tribute to him at his funeral in Eton, Leicestershire. Tony Hamilton, 59, said his brother, who presented BBC2's *Gardeners' World* for 17 years, "lived the lives of ten men with some to spare" and died helping other people to try to improve the world. A large number of floral tributes included many sent by viewers. Mr Hamilton died of a heart attack on August 4.

Kidd still critical

Eddie Kidd, the motorcycle stunt man, remained critical and unconscious in Warwick Hospital yesterday, after suffering head and pelvic injuries in a crash at a weekend rally. His family, including his parents and wife Sarah, were at his bedside. His two-year-old son Jack was staying with friends. Kidd, 36, was still on a ventilator and doctors do not know if he has suffered brain damage.

New poster, new danger as Tory slogan backfires

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

THE Conservative Party faced a growing backlash last night from a senior churchman and Tory MPs over its poster portraying Tony Blair with demonic burning red eyes.

The Rt Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, warned that it was dangerous to draw on satanic imagery and appealed to politicians to resist any further personal attacks on their opponents. John Biffen, a former Cabinet minister, urged the party to adopt the traditional methods of argument and political debate. He said that there was plenty of ammunition with which the Tories could criticise Mr Blair.

In an article in *The Times* today Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, who is co-ordinating the summer offensive against Labour, acknowledged that some Conservatives regretted the attacks on their opponents. But he defended the posters.

He wrote: "We have to expose the reality and make the dangers clear. Mr Blair's face is the face of New Labour. His is the smile of reassurance. From his lips come the pleasing soundbites. On the face of New Labour we put the

red eyes symbolising danger." Despite Mr Portillo's defence, the Tories appeared last night to have taken the criticism to heart. Officials made clear that the poster was a one-off and that there were no plans to rerun it. "I don't think it will ever be seen again," said one senior Tory.

Sir Julian Critchley, the veteran Tory MP for Aldershot, said: "The poster is childish, counter-productive, and turns voters off. I could barely believe it when I saw it. I do not know what has become of our advertising department. It is just not credible to paint Tony Blair as a demon. Satire has to be clever to work."

A senior member of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee said: "It is bloody awful. It is typical of why the voters have lost so much respect for politicians. We are living in the age of the pygmy."

The poster carried comments from Clare Short, from her interview in the *New Statesman* last week about the "dark forces" surrounding Mr Blair. It was devised by the party's advertising agency for Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman.

Leave octuplet mother in peace, pleads consultant

Continued from page 1

the matter should be referred to the commission, and he described the way the story had been sold as quite revolting.

"My concern was, and still is, that in this kind of case, newspapers — particularly very powerful multinational media organisations — should exercise at least a degree of self-control and morality, even if some other people are unable to do so."

"My major concern is the fact that a person who appears not to have the means to bring up the children

should have been offered this kind of treatment in the first place."

Doctors also expressed surprise yesterday that Miss Allwood had been given powerful fertility drugs in apparent contravention of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' guidelines, which say that treatment to stimulate ovulation should be restricted to "appropriately investigated couples... in whom such treatment has been shown to be beneficial in view of its costs and risks".

The college also recommends that

the welfare of any resulting child and of any existing children should be considered, and couples should be made aware of the problems and risks of multiple pregnancy.

Miss Allwood, has been with Paul Hudson for two years. But he spends alternate nights with another girlfriend with whom he has two children. Miss Allwood is the mother of a five-year-old son by her ex-husband, had an abortion in 1993 and a miscarriage last year.

The Priory Hospital in Edgbaston, which treated Miss Allwood, insists

that it provides assistance only for couples in stable relationships, and says that in 99 per cent of cases it sees the prospective parents together at least twice — although it admitted that in some cases it treated women without having interviews with their partners.

It is unclear whether Miss Allwood told the clinic her full circumstances, but Mr Hudson has said that he did not know that she had sought help until after she began taking the drugs. He was not ready to have more children and insisted that she

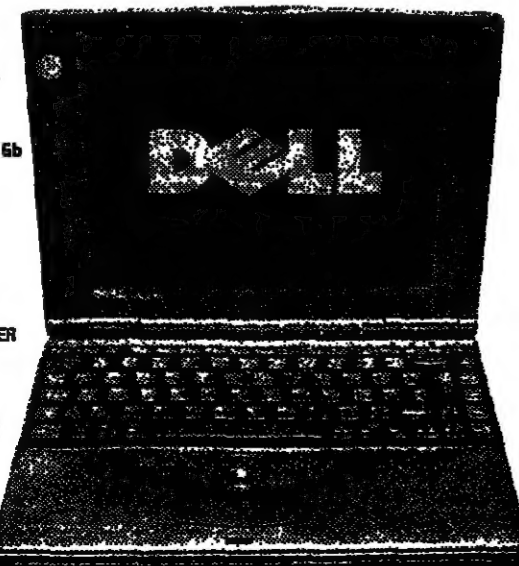
stop immediately — but by then she was pregnant.

Richard Nicholson, editor of the *Bulletin of Medical Ethics*, said: "How is it that a couple, the female of which had one child of her own and the male of which had two children of his own, could be diagnosed as an infertile couple needing treatment without the male having any knowledge that fertility treatment was being sought?"

Mother's plea, page 6
Leading article, page 17

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Thinking small: Marcel Steiner performs *Macbeth*, left — his theatre also has its own crush-bar, a chandelier and flock wallpaper — while Adrian Bunting acts out his drama of a life-or-death struggle set in a gas oven

Fringe title challenge by the smallest shows on earth

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SOME performers dream of making it big on the Edinburgh Fringe. Very few have a dream of making it small.

Unfortunately, two performers both claiming to have the smallest shows on earth have been booked into the same courtyard venue at this year's event. Last night there were fears that the city

might not be big enough for the two of them.

Marcel Steiner, who performs epic dramas in a motorcycle sidecar, is threatening legal action against Adrian Bunting, whose productions take place in a wooden box.

Mr Steiner, whose Smallest Theatre in the World is registered with Companies House, said: "I've been going 25 years."

Mr Bunting, who has been

running the World's Smallest Theatre for three years, said he would relish letting a court decide: "He may have registered the name, but this is just a description of something. You could fit 20 of mine in his. Ours is patently the World's Smallest Theatre in the World."

Mr Steiner's self-contained theatre tours festivals worldwide with a cast of two or three actors.

In Edinburgh, there are two productions daily, *Macbeth* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. The sidecar is 6ft long by 6ft high, and about a yard wide. It includes "the world's smallest bar" — redefining the idea of the theatre crush-bar — as well as a chandelier and flock wallpaper.

Mr Bunting has no set performance schedule. He turns up with his box and awaits an audience. Someone turning up is

his cue to start. As he can only take one spectator, just one person means a sell-out show.

The "audience" balances the box on their shoulders. Mr Bunting and his co-star, Clea Smith, peer through holes in it and perform a three-minute production about suicide, which is set in a gas oven. He claimed: "We booked here first."

Their rivalry at this year's festival is fuelled by their unfortunate proximity to one another. They are both booked into the courtyard of the Pleasance Theatre, and are performing only ten yards apart.

Richard Osborne, associate director of the Pleasance Theatre, said: "Let the battle commence. May the best theatre win."

A Glaswegian murderer who discovered art in Barlinnie Prison has staged one of the most important sculpture exhibitions

at the Edinburgh Festival. Jimmy Boyle is showing 16 figurative bronzes in the gallery of the Demarco European Art Foundation, whose director Richard Demarco inspired him to become an artist on prison visits 25 years ago. Mr Boyle, 52, was released 15 years ago from a life sentence for a gangland killing. His works cost from £1,500.

Edinburgh review, page 33

Families mourn young lives lost in dyke crash

BY LIN JENKINS

FRIENDS and family of the five teenagers who died when their car overturned in a Lincolnshire dyke spoke yesterday of their grief at the loss of so many young lives.

John Campbell, 46, whose son Danny was among those who died, recalled both the irritation and the joy of having a teenage son as he fought to come to terms with his death. "Danny was a very bright lad. He loved music — especially that jungle music which he drove us mad with every day on the radio. He loved art and football. He loved life — people loved him," he said.

Danny, 14, died with his friends Mark Lee, 17, Jamie Wood, 16, Stuart Bevins, 16, and Benjamin O'Gorman, 17, when their Montego car overturned in a 20ft-wide dyke running to the sea at the Coral Beach caravan park at Ingoldmells on Sunday. They had been on a weekend away from their homes in the Leicester area visiting friends at the caravan site. They died when the car failed to take a junction on the private road leaving the site before 5am.

Mr Campbell, recalling his son, said he was neither a drug-taker nor a joy rider. Danny had earned the money for the holiday near Skegness by working for him. "He was a wonderful person. Everyone on this estate loved him." He said his son had been sleeping in the back of the car when some of the others decided to go for a drive. "It was a cruel piece of fate."

Danny's twin sister Jodie said: "I loved my brother very much and I will never get over him. He wasn't just a twin



Danny Campbell: loved music, art and football

brother — he was special to me."

Jamie Measham, 19, a plasterer, who was the sole survivor of the crash after winding down a window, climbing out and trying to save the others, spent yesterday with his parents and two brothers at their home on the Thurnby Lodge estate, near Leicester, trying to come to terms with the death of his friends.

His father, Jeff, 35, said: "Jamie can't remember much about what happened. All of the boys were good friends. They had grown up together and had gone away for a couple of nights at the seaside." Mr Measham denied claims made by the owners of the caravan site that the six friends had been to an all-night rave party.

Efforts by holidaymakers and later the emergency services to resuscitate the five proved futile. Inspector Les Parker, of Lincolnshire police, said: "They had spent several hours on the site when the tragedy happened."

Meridian censured for film trailer ban

BY PETER FOSTER

AN ITV company that refused to show trailers for *Four Weddings and a Funeral* because the film contained swearing was reprimanded by the Independent Television Commission.

Meridian, which broadcasts to the south coast, blocked peak-time trailers for Channel 4's screening of the film last November. The company said it was policy not to broadcast trailers for a programme with bad language when children were likely to be watching.

Four Weddings, which was screened after 9pm, opens with a string of four-letter words from Hugh Grant's character.

The reprimand, published yesterday in the ITC's monthly report on programme complaints and interventions, reminded Meridian that it had a duty to advertise Channel 4 programmes regardless of content. A spokesman for the commission said: "It is highly unusual for a company to refuse to co-operate in this way."

Meridian was the only one of 15 ITV companies to refuse to show the trailer. "We take everything the ITC says very seriously but we have also got our viewers to consider," Meridian said. The ITC upheld a complaint concerning one of its own advertisements. The television commercial, promoting the adult viewing watershed, showed a small boy shocked by a gun battle on television. Transmission was restricted to after 9pm, and the satellite channel VHI was criticised for showing it at 5pm on a Sunday.

Television, page 39

Elephant can't say goodbye to circus

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

2005 in Rome and Naples last night offered to save the life of Italy's favourite elephant, whose owner is threatening to have it put down on Friday. Baby, a 3½-ton, 35-year-old female Indian elephant and one-time star performer in the Orfei circus, is said by her owners to be wasting away from a lack of limelight after being forced by animal rights activists to retire from a lifetime of celebrity in the ring.

Nando Orfei, head of the 180-year-old circus — one of the oldest family-run circuses in Europe — said: "She is wasting away; she is suffering, and most of the time just



Baby the elephant just couldn't forget the limelight

does nothing."

The turning point came last week when Baby turned on her keeper, Signor Orfei's son Paride, and attacked a younger she-elephant called Wanda. According to Paride, who grew up with Baby and played with her as a child, she had become a danger to her keepers and other animals.

Italian animal experts have claimed that circus animals can suffer when deprived of human attention. But British authorities are more doubtful.

Arthur Lindley, head of wildlife for the RSPCA, said last night: "I have never heard of elephants pining for lack of human company. Elephants are social animals who naturally live in groups. They do not need humans. If they are kept alone they can easily exhibit signs of boredom, like pacing, head-swinging, or hitting the bars of their cage." The case of Baby "sounds like an excuse for disposing of an unwanted animal," Mr Lindley said.

Paul McStay

HP has Vectra VL4

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Dame Vera says it with flowers in local art show

By Emma Wilkins

Poverty blamed for drop in pass rate to the Bar

One of five watercolours Dame Vera is "thrilled" to be exhibiting in village hall



Dame Vera: "She has a good eye for colour"

His nephew, John Skelton, also a sculptor, is president of the Ditchling Handworkers Guild, organisers of the

"She is a very talented lady, an excellent draughtswoman with a good eye for colour. She has a studio in her home. When she first came to me she was already good at flowers. We have been working on her landscapes."

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Steroids save baby from heart attack in the womb

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

DOCTORS in Glasgow have become the first in Britain to use steroids to save a baby in the womb at risk of heart failure. Katie McGuire is one of only six babies worldwide known to have survived the fatal condition, which occurs when the mother's antibodies attack the foetus's heart.

Obstetricians at Glasgow Royal Maternity Hospital learnt of the treatment in a medical journal. They read that steroids had been used successfully in five cases in America to reduce the effects of antibodies on the baby.

The doctors were already experienced in using steroids to treat pregnant mothers with rheumatic-type ailments and decided they had no choice but to try the new method to save the baby's life.

At 23 weeks' gestation a scan had revealed that her heart-beat had dropped to only 35 to 40 beats a minute. The normal rate is 120 to 160 beats. Rosalind McGuire, her mother, has Sjogren's syndrome, a connective tissue disorder which affects the joints and skin. The condition causes the mother to develop antibodies which attack the baby in the womb, causing heart failure.

Dr Alan Mathers, a foetal medicine expert, said doctors were aware of Mrs McGuire's condition and had kept a close watch on the pregnancy. "When we scanned her we found the baby's heart rate was very slow and she was already in gross cardiac failure. Without this treatment the baby's outlook was dire. She would have died," he said.

Mrs McGuire, 30, a PE teacher from Mulrend, Glasgow, received daily steroid injections for 70 days before giving birth. The treatment raised Katie's heart rate to 55 beats a minute and helped her to survive long enough to be delivered safely by Caesarean section three weeks premature. At about three months old the girl, Mrs McGuire's first child, was fitted with a pacemaker. She will need one for life.

Dr Mathers said: "The choice was treatment with the attendant risks and the possibility of a good outcome, against no treatment and the death of a baby."

He knew of only one other case during his eight years at Glasgow of a baby suffering cardiac arrest as serious as Katie's. It did not survive. "Knowing that we can now retrieve pregnancies which otherwise would have been doomed gives us some encouragement for the future," he said.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD



Mandy Allwood, left, pregnant by Paul Hudson, and Maria Edwards, who already has two children by him

Plea for a child that resulted in eight foetuses

BY CAROL MIDGLEY AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE furore over the single woman who is pregnant with octuplets was triggered when Mandy Allwood walked into her GP's surgery in Solihull, West Midlands, in mid April and confided that she was desperate for a child.

She had first met Paul Hudson, the man who was to become the father of her eight unborn babies, in late 1992. Mr Hudson, a property developer, asked her to become manager of his new letting business in Birmingham, a job that gave her £1,000 a month and a car.

By 1994 her 11-year marriage to Simon Pugh, a plasterer with whom she had a son, Charlie, now 5, was failing and she agreed to go on a date to a nightclub with Mr Hudson, despite the fact he had a long-term girlfriend, Maria Edwards, and a baby son, Kane.

In June that year Miss Allwood separated from her husband and moved into a flat next door to Mr Hudson. They began a relationship. In October 1995, by which time Mr Hudson's property business had failed, she became pregnant for the first time by Mr Hudson.

According to her friends, she was overjoyed, regarding the pregnancy as a means of laying full claim to Mr Hudson, who had continued his relationship with Miss Edwards. By the end of Decem-



Nicolaides is caring for Mandy Allwood

ber 1995, however, she had miscarried.

She resolved to become pregnant again as soon as possible, apparently unconcerned that Miss Edwards was about to give birth to Mr Hudson's second son, Zack.

When by April Miss Allwood had failed to conceive, she went to see her GP who agreed to refer her to the private Priory Clinic in Edgbaston, West Midlands.

She was prescribed a seven-day course of the hormone Metrodin and a booster drug Pregnyl and warned not to have unprotected sexual intercourse during that period to avoid a multiple pregnancy.

Mr Hudson, who disliked the idea of fertility drugs and

had said that he was unprepared for another child, was not told what had happened.

Two days into the course, Miss Allwood decided to confess to Mr Hudson, who ordered her to cease the treatment immediately. But Miss Allwood, it appears, was already pregnant.

In May, Miss Allwood bought a pregnancy testing kit which showed positive. In July she underwent a series of scans at the Priory Clinic which revealed that she was carrying eight babies.

The couple first consulted with their solicitor, Michael Woolridge, and then Mr Hudson telephoned Central Television in Birmingham, where the reaction from journalists confirmed that the couple had a valuable property.

They transferred their attention to the *News of the World* on Monday, August 7. After taking further advice they then arranged to meet Max Clifford, the PR consultant, on Wednesday. He agreed to handle the sponsorship and media fees and the deal was complete.

The *News of the World* has also arranged for Miss Allwood to stay at a secret address close to King's College Hospital in south London, where she is under the care of Professor Kypros Nicolaides, head of foetal medicine.

Leading article, page 17

Power over life is a privilege to be exercised with caution

The Victorian concept of the doctor, kindly, wise, paternalistic, even patronising, as much pastor as physician, didn't survive the social upheaval of the 1960s. Had it been possible for a case like Mandy Allwood's to come before a GP 50 years ago, it is unlikely that she, her boyfriend Paul Hudson and the eight embryos would now be facing a potential medical



MEDICAL BRIEFING

and social disaster created by over-stimulation of her ovaries.

The traditional, old-fashioned doctor would probably

have been indifferent to being labelled judgmental and would have refused — it is hoped politely — to be a party to the use of such

powerful drugs as are used in fertility treatment without a broad check on the patient's social and domestic background.

The doctor would have been interested in the patient's motivation in wanting a baby. Was it to satisfy maternal longing? To provide a sibling? To cement a tottering relationship? Was the child wanted as an emo-

tional lever over the partner? It would also be necessary to investigate the likelihood that a patient would be prepared to co-operate in the careful monitoring that is needed once fertility drugs have been prescribed. For in this treatment, care is owed not just to the mother and father but also to the unborn child or children who may well have to spend a lifetime contending with the consequences of a prescription issued in a busy outpatient clinic.

Patients sometimes look rather surprised when asked routine questions by their doctor about their household and lifestyle, but these are very relevant to both diagnosis and treatment. The fertility drugs stocked on the shelves of Boots have the ability to alter completely a family's life and have the

capacity to be lethal as well as creative.

It may not be a very entrancing thought that for some women conception is only possible with the help of an extract of the urine of pregnant patients — which is used to produce chorionic gonadotrophin (Pregnyl) given after the ovaries have been primed with Metrodin, prepared from the urine of women who are post-menopausal — but it is very much better than not being able to conceive at all.

It is a privilege to have such power, but it is a privilege which has to be exercised with some caution.

When infertility is a problem, polycystic ovarian disease is always considered as a possible cause. This diagnosis has been mentioned in relation to the case of Miss

Allwood. This is when the balance between two hormones, LH and FSH, produced by the pituitary gland, is abnormal, with too much LH and too little FSH. Most but not all women with polycystic ovarian disease tend to be overweight and with a male pattern of facial and body hair. Most do not ovulate and their periods are usually very scant.

The hormones such as were prescribed for Miss Allwood would generally only be used in the treatment of polycystic ovarian disease after less powerful, and potentially less tricky, ones had already failed, and only, of course, if the patient wanted to conceive.

Doctors reject role in vetting gun owners

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

FAMILY doctors are to oppose a recommendation today by a Commons committee that they take a central role in the granting of firearms and shotgun certificates.

The MPs are proposing that GPs be involved in countersigning all applications for gun certificates. The British Medical Association dismissed the recommendation in the report by the Home Affairs Select Committee as impractical and said it would create a "false sense of reassurance".

"The BMA believes there is no reliable way of predicting violent behaviour," a spokeswoman said, making clear that if the Government adopted the idea, it would have to alter GPs' terms and conditions, including a clause for those who as a matter of conscience did not wish to be involved.

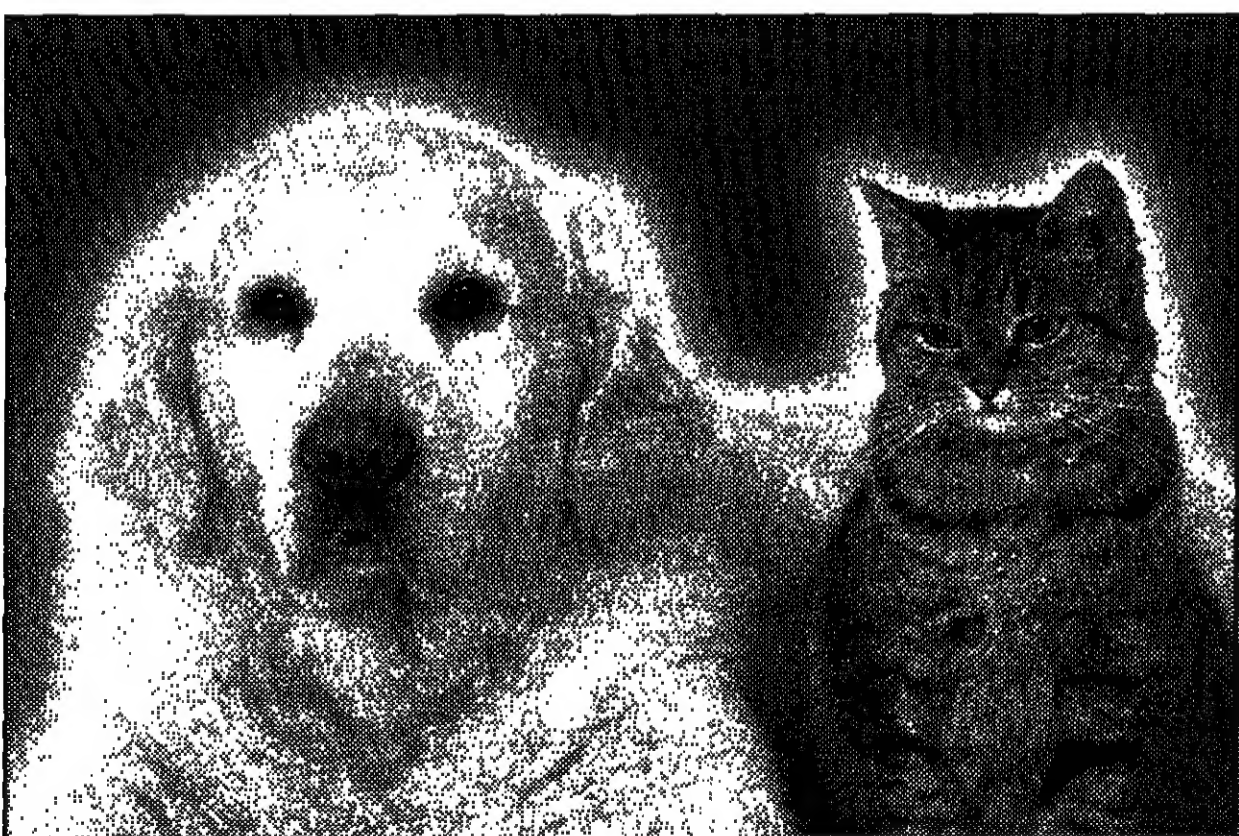
The investigation into the possession of handguns, begun after the Dunblane massacre, has divided the committee on party lines, with the Conservative majority voting against a ban on their private ownership. Labour MPs are likely to publish a minority report demanding a ban on the possession of handguns except, rarely, where a gun club could demonstrate that guns for use at the club could be centrally and securely kept without any danger, or where they were needed for occupational reasons.

The proposal that doctors countersign an application for a firearms certificate is likely to be the most concrete recommendation to emerge in the report published this morning. Other recommendations

are likely to centre on tightening the application procedures, including the nomination of at least two referees and more checks at the homes of holders of certificates.

The report is likely to enrage campaigners for gun control by ruling out most of the proposals made after the Dunblane massacre, in which 16 children and their teacher were shot dead. It is likely to suggest that banning handguns would not prevent a mass killing or stop the unstable getting guns illegally. Among proposals likely to be rejected are that handguns be held centrally rather than in homes, that the gun and firing mechanism be stored separately, and that there should be curbs on the number of guns someone can possess.

Last night, Gill Marshall-Andrews, of Gun Control Network, said: "We are very disappointed about this report." It was "mere tinkering". She criticised the committee for not taking oral evidence from campaigners for gun control or from any group or person affected by the Hungerford and Dunblane massacres. Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, head of the Police Superintendents' Association, said: "We agree with the dissenting, minority view [on the committee] that there's no justification for people possessing handguns for private use outside properly approved and secure locations. It seems that the majority on the committee have not fully viewed the evidence and have simply accepted the view of the gun lobby."



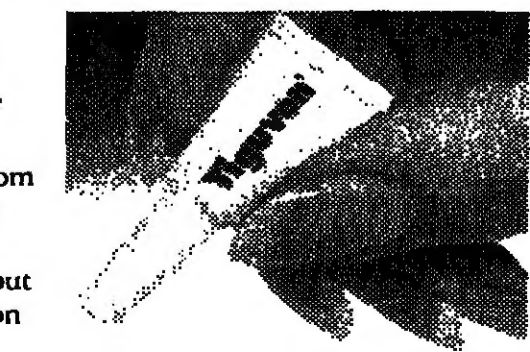
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Ideal home that fell apart when the peasants moved in

BY BILL FROST

A LOST villa on the fertile banks of the River Darent in Kent was one of the most significant archaeological discoveries this century, opening wide a window on life in affluent Roman Britain.

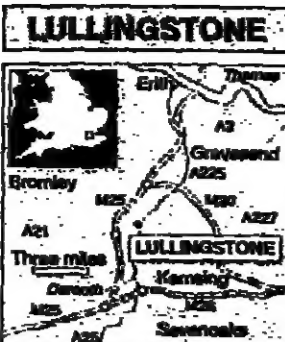
Sealed against the ravages of time by soil slippage, the Lullingstone site was to yield an astonishing harvest of treasures when excavated at

most 50 years ago. The succession of wealthy farming families who lived here plainly spared no expense on life's little luxuries.

The villa, originally built in timber and daub in about AD 75, changed in appearance regularly until the last occupants abandoned it towards the end of Empire. Each gentleman farmer left a little of his times behind.

A more idyllic setting is hard to imagine: clear river water, rich pastures, arable fields and gently rolling countryside. There were other Roman villas along the length of the Darent, but none to compare with Lullingstone.

A rather ugly cover building was erected over the site in the 1950s when its significance was fully appreciated. Once inside, though, the unpre-



sessing exterior is forgotten. Laid out before the visitor are a series of rectangular rooms, two magnificent mosaics, clearly discernible wall paintings and a Christian chapel.

At the north end of the villa are extensive baths, added in about 180. The then owner's

taste was extravagantly hedonistic, even by Roman standards. He had hot, tepid and cold rooms, a laconicum or sweating-room (forerunner to today's sauna) and a large cold plunge pool.

Bathing was an important daily ritual at Lullingstone. Slaves with clean towels and lotions pampered their master, his family and their guests while they chatted, laid wagers or simply dozed in the heat. Apolly enough, there was an aquatic decorative theme. The last owner commissioned a mural artist to paint various fish on the bath walls.

However, any question mark over taste in decoration is banished when the visitor views the beautiful mosaics in the triclinium — an audience chamber and dining room. They are quite stunning. The

classical obsession with symmetry and order has been translated into timeless beauty. The mosaics depict the abduction of Europa by Jupiter, disguised as a white bull, and the mythological hero Bellerophon, mounted on Pegasus, killing the Chimera, a fire-breathing monster.

Europa, in a transparent robe, appears curiously indifferent to imminent violation. She smiles vacantly as a pair of anxious cupids attempt to prevent the bull having his way. The second mosaic is even more impressive. Bellerophon gathers his reins and urges Pegasus on to trample the Chimera — a nightmare creature with a lion's head and serpent's tail.

At the edge of the main panel are four dolphins and two open oyster shells.



Europa and the bull: from the Lullingstone mosaic

Around the border beyond are figures representing three of the four seasons. Winter frosts from a hooded cloak, there is a swallow on spring's shoulder and autumn is crowned with ripe corn. Sadly, summer has gone — the

tiles, or tesserae, lost after the villa was abandoned. The two mosaics are separated by a geometrically perfect panel featuring squares, octagons, hearts and swastikas.

Many other priceless treasures were unearthed at

Lullingstone: more than 400 coins, Greek busts and a magnificent gem — the Cornelian Intaglio — carved with the image of Winged Victory. The Christian wall paintings — the sole surviving examples from a villa in Roman Britain — featured a sacred monogram of Christ and worshippers at prayer. Though primitive, the work has a tranquil beauty.

By the end of the 4th century, the villa was falling into disrepair and had been badly damaged by fire. When the last gentleman farmer and his family left, it was pillaged by peasants who had long envied their landlord's affluence. Only the mudslide brought an end to the vandalism, burying the villa and preserving one of Britain's finest Roman sites.

Latin ghosts haunt town preserved by centuries of neglect

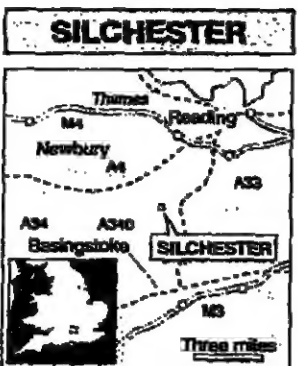
BY BILL FROST

WIND through the trees which surround the amphitheatre at Silchester whispers like an invisible crowd waiting for the spectacle of gladiatorial combat.

In the arena, enslaved Britons fought to the death with short sword and trident for the entertainment of the conquerors and their collaborators. Other highlights for the jaded mob included bear baiting, bull fights and regular public executions of those who resisted Pax Romana.

To this day, an atmosphere of menace lingers about the amphitheatre. Those who know Silchester well say that few visitors can remain long in the arena without the uncomfortable impression that they are being watched from the terraced seats.

A walk around the ramparts of Calleva Atrebatum, as the Romans named the settlement, can give the same unsettling sensation. The walls, in places still up to 15ft high, look out over fields and woods where, as the empire began to crumble slowly in the late 3rd century, brigands, raiders and partisans waited



and watched. Calleva had been among Rome's highest priority objectives after the invasion. The settlement was important as an administrative centre, as a gateway to the south-west and as a well-established market.

Such was the town's perceived importance in the years immediately after the invasion that the Emperor Nero became involved in Calleva's development. The hearing his name were found there during Victorian and Edwardian excavations.

However, with the departure of the legions in the 5th century, the town was to die. The stout walls which survive

to this day were considered inadequate protection against those waiting in the woods.

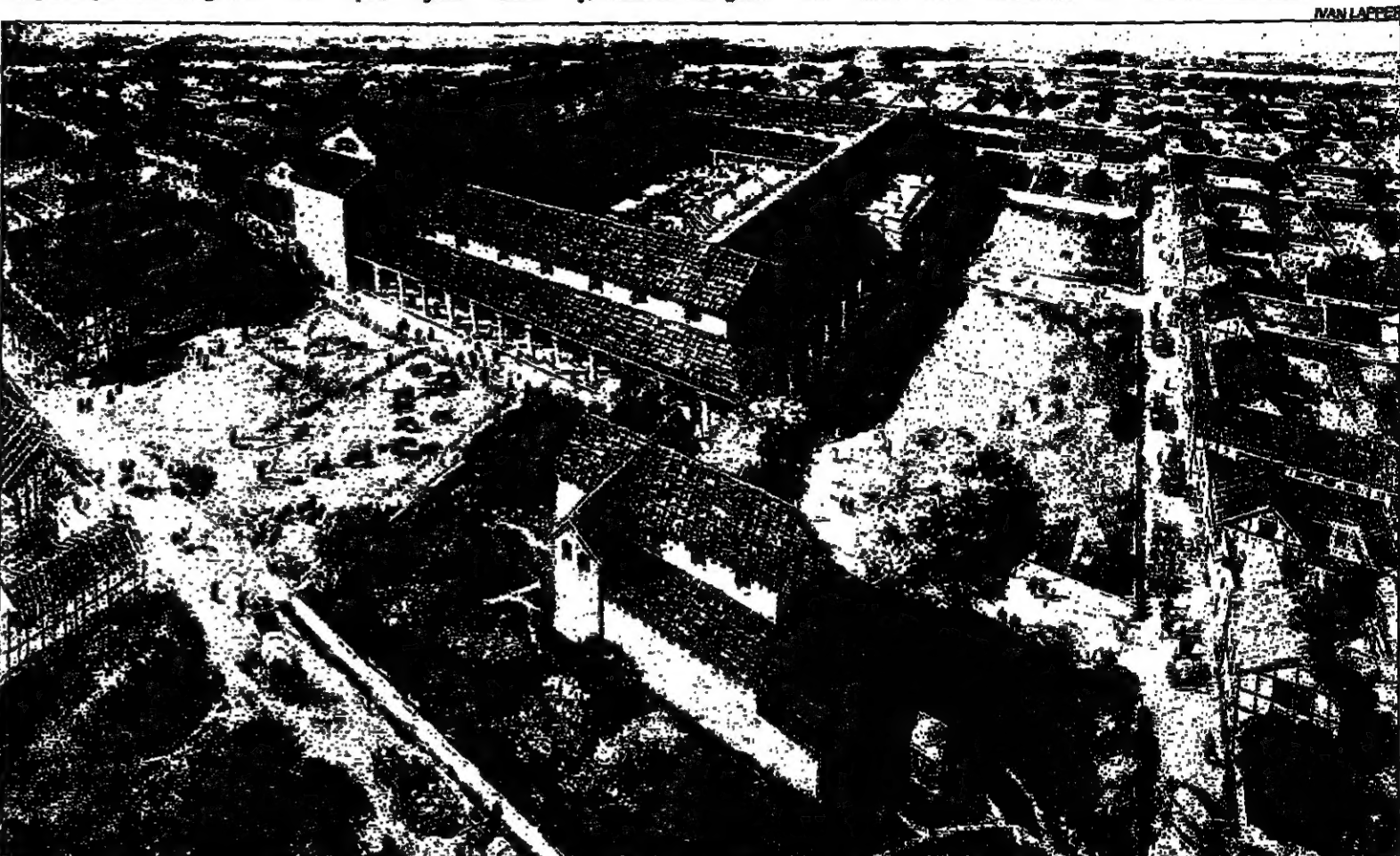
When the Romano-British merchants and farmers quit Calleva, they left behind a town laid out on a grid pattern still visible today in crop marks — the shallower rooted growth showing where buildings lie below. There is the clear silhouette of a forum, a basilica and covered market.

There is archaeological evidence too of a Christian church close to the forum. The tiny building, excavated in 1892 and 1961, may well have been devoted to pagan deities before Constantine the Great agreed that the new religion should be tolerated.

Inside the building a mosaic of black and white tiles was uncovered. The central design is of a crucifix.

Close by stood the public baths — probably built during Nero's reign. Water from a stream was warmed by hypocaust, the charcoal-fired central heating system without which life in the cold and damp province would have proved intolerable for the invaders.

Bathing was a time-consuming indulgence. Evidence



The walls of Silchester are remarkably well preserved because it was never reoccupied. The layout has been reconstructed from crop marks

of an exercise yard at Silchester shows that the Romans would first work up a sweat before the cold plunge and sauna-style session in the warm room.

Calleva's "death" with the departure of the legions has ironically guaranteed the town's immortality. Because it

was completely abandoned and never reoccupied, there was no new building and little plundering of the rampart stone. The location, at the heart of a maze of minor roads in a triangle formed by Newbury, Reading and Basingstoke, has also helped the settlement to maintain its

tranquil and timeless quality. Although now laid to pasture, Calleva seems still occupied by the shadows of those who once settled here. It is almost as if one can hear voices and laughter echoing beside the North Gate.

The Roman wall — widely described as the best-pre-

served in Britain — can be walked in an hour or so. However, some caution is required on stretches where the path is slightly overgrown. The visitor's exertions are, however, richly rewarded.

There is little evidence of the late 20th century when one looks back into the settlement and then out over the woods and fields again: just the ever sharper conviction of watchers beyond the rampart.

Tomorrow: the Roman shore forts

Fourth largest city grew from border fort built to quell 'little Britons'

BY EMMA WILKINS

THE Welsh proved troublesome and ready for a fight in Roman times. When Caractacus, the British resistance leader, needed support in the AD 40s he turned to the fertile recruiting grounds of the Ordovices tribe in central Wales.

Despite contemptuously referring to the rebellious Welsh forces as "Britanniculi" (little Britons), the Romans took the threat of unrest seriously and began to build forts along the border, including a small encampment at Wroxeter.

After the defeat and capture of Caractacus in AD 51, the Welsh tribes continued the struggle and the Wroxeter camp, on the River Sever, was expanded to become home first to the XIV and later the XX Legion.

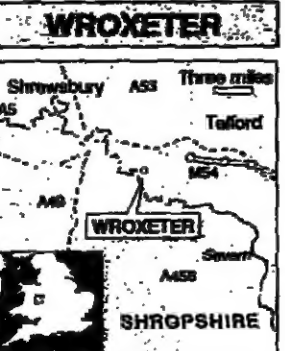
It was left to Agricola, Governor of Britain in the late AD 70s, to subdue the barbarians, wiping out the

Ordovices and destroying the Druid sanctuary on Anglesey in his first campaign.

When Emperor Hadrian visited Britain in AD 122 he was determined to extend the Roman way of life to all parts of his conquered territory. A plan was developed to double the size of Wroxeter by encouraging new settlers.

The town was transformed into a sophisticated Roman city, with public baths, delicatessens and a forum for public meetings. The grand scale of what became the fourth largest city in Roman Britain can be seen today from a 40ft-high wall, known as The Old Work, between an exercise hall and bath chamber.

The hall, where bathers played games, chatted and lunched up, was 245ft long by 66ft wide. A building near by was probably a brothel. Houses of ill repute were generally not allowed to open



before 3pm so that women bathers were not troubled.

An aqueduct from the Sever to the city provided two million gallons of water a day. The system was organised so that, in times of drought, the supply was automatically cut off from private subscribers.

Visitors to Wroxeter can trace the routes taken by 1st-century residents on their daily shopping trips by stepping along grassy paths be-

tween the foundations of the baths, shops and public lavatories. Much Roman stone-work has been looted down the ages, and many older houses appear to be partly built from Roman masonry.

In the fields surrounding the site, archaeologists from Birmingham University have established that Wroxeter was much more built-up than the garden city previously imagined.

One of the most fabulous Roman treasures pulled from British soil was found at Wroxeter: a beautifully preserved silver hand mirror the size of a large dinner plate. Dated from around the late 1st century, it would have belonged to a wealthy woman who employed servants to hold it at a distance.

The mirror and other artefacts, including a leaky bucket, coins and bronze statuettes, are on display at Rowley's House Museum in Shrewsbury, five miles west of Wroxeter.

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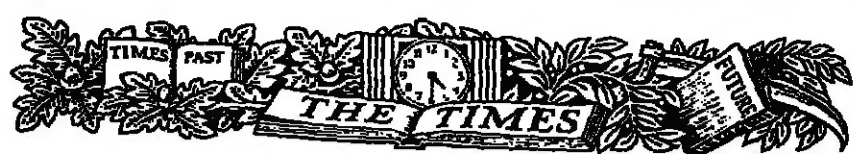
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NEW LIFE, NEW QUESTIONS

The responsibility of doctors, patients and press

As medical technology increases human opportunities, so does it challenge human ethics. From transplant surgery to fertility drugs, the capacity of science to prolong and enhance human life has strained the ability of traditional morality to provide authoritative guides to behaviour. The problem did not begin with fertility treatment. Nor is the case of Mandy Allwood the most complicated of fertility cases. Nonetheless the news of a fertile woman determined to take fertility drugs, defy medical advice and bear eight babies has raised the greatest public consciousness.

Hard cases do not make good rules. Fertility treatment has brought joy to couples who thought that one of family life's greatest benefits might be denied them. What was a gift from God, like grace, has been brought by human ingenuity within the reach of those denied it. That quiet extension of happiness to unnumbered families should not be obscured.

Hard cases are often, however, the ones which frame debate. Miss Allwood's experience prompts serious questions about the availability of fertility treatment. When she was prescribed the fertility drugs Metrodin and Pregnyl, her fertility can have been in little doubt. She had already successfully conceived three times. Miss Allwood had only one child, having miscarried one and aborted another. It is possible that she thought a second child might enrich family life. Anxiety to secure a sibling for her son would be understandable. Anxiety about the affections of an unreliable boyfriend would not, however, constitute a good reason for fertility treatment. Reluctance to fetter an individual's freedom to conceive is one thing. Helping her to do so when her motives could be questioned and the consequences dangerous is quite another.

The wisdom of the doctor who prescribed Miss Allwood's treatment is in serious doubt. There is a case for reviewing the ethical constraints which are available to guide general practitioners in these cases. Invasive treatments such as in-vitro

fertilisation (IVF) are carefully circumscribed in law. Prospective parents have to undergo counselling; there is a limit on the number of implanted embryos. The British Medical Association also lays down a code of conduct for IVF treatment. Specialists working within fertility clinics will in most cases take heed of guidance framed by their professional college.

However, there are no legal guidelines or codified professional advice which specifically govern the prescription of fertility drugs by general practitioners. It is normally preferable in complicated cases to trust to the discretion of individual doctors. But Miss Allwood's case suggests that is not always enough. GPs might benefit from the establishment of a benchmark of best ethical practice in this area.

If doctors might be guided to wisdom, could parents? Miss Allwood, her boyfriend, Paul Hudson, and his other lover, Maria Edwards, already have four children between them — the products of three separate relationships. Miss Allwood has already undured one failed marriage. Ms Edwards gave birth to her three children outside marriage. Mr Hudson, who draws state benefits, shows no signs of marrying either. It would be wrong if the State legislated to limit the right to reproduce. But society is placed under strain by the carelessness with which so many conceive.

The prospect of the births being encouraged by a sliding scale of newspaper payments has produced widespread dissent. Money was not, however, at the root of this issue: it exacerbated an existing set of conditions and brought it to wider notice. The more that parents are insulated from the consequences of their actions, whether by the State or the fourth estate, the harder it will be to instil restraint. New life is a gift, its creation a joy and its spread to those once denied, a blessing. The knowledge of new life's preciousness has spurred scientists to make it available to all. That knowledge should also guide society in ensuring the care that creation deserves.

TERRORISTS AND TURKS

Dangerous pipeline: handle with care

Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday signed a \$23 billion dollar gas supply deal with Iran, committing Turkey to a 20-year contract and the construction of a 1,000-mile pipeline between the two countries. The deal, which both sides hailed as the foundation of a rapid and general improvement of relations between two neighbours ruled by Islamist Governments, is bound to be viewed with alarm in the West. It binds a pivotal member of NATO to a country identified in Western capitals as a leading supporter of global terrorism, a committed exporter of revolution and a virulent opponent of Western interests around the globe. The reaction in Washington is likely to be explosive.

The gas deal comes only after a week after America's controversial attempt to put pressure on Iran by imposing sanctions on any company investing more than \$40 million in Iran's energy sector. At a stroke it would seem to nullify the entire thrust of the D'Amato Act. It is more than a symbolic breach in the attempt to isolate Tehran: it looks like a provocative confirmation of the misgivings among America's allies over legislation that they say is unenforceable.

The deal, however, should come as no surprise to Turkey's allies. Mr Erbakan has made no secret of his wish to improve relations with his Muslim neighbours. Indeed, one reason for the concern over the prospect of an Islamic Government in Ankara was the conviction that Turkey, the vital Cold War protector of NATO's southern flank, would turn back to its historic Ottoman hinterland at the expense of its Western orientation. In fact, Mr Erbakan has shown himself a shrewd pragmatist so

far. He has not, despite earlier strident opposition to NATO, weakened his links with his military allies. He has renewed the use of Turkish bases for Operation Provide Comfort patrolling the skies over northern Iraq. And he has refused to bow to demands to scrap Turkey's recent military training agreement with Israel.

Seen from Ankara, an improvement with its neighbours makes sense. The sanctions against Iraq have cost Turkey dear, and the promised Western compensation has not materialised. There are huge export markets on Turkey's southern flank, as well as in the newly opened heartland of Russia. These countries are eager to welcome Turkish goods — in contrast to the European Union, whose grudging acceptance and delayed customs union are hostage to Greek suspicions. Turkey may argue that as long as it was seen in competition with Iran for influence in Central Asia — a competition encouraged by the West — it was unable to make the most of these countries' new independence and new markets.

It is dangerous for Turkey's Western allies to dictate who its friends should be or interfere in its rediscovery of its Islamic heritage. Those are decisions for the ballot box. America should tread carefully in its response to the pipeline deal: a quarrel with an ally of such geopolitical importance would weaken NATO's cohesion. But the West can warn Mr Erbakan that any dramatic rapprochement with Iran, or even with Iraq as now proposed by those calling for a regional summit, would frighten away potential Western investors. That could cost Turkey many millions in lost income — far more, possibly, than the money earned from the new gas pipeline.

SONGS WITH PASTS

Aux armes, defenders of "God Save The Queen"

Applying strict tests of relevance and usefulness to national anthems is a preposterous pastime. Paul Richards, author of a Fabian Society tract on modernising the monarchy published yesterday, has been reasoning thus and landed himself in a muddle over *God Save The Queen*. He complains that our national anthem is too "dirge-like" to compare to the *Marseillaise*, too anti-Jacobite, too Protestant and not English enough — since in his new model federal Britain an English anthem should coexist with a truly British one for the whole of the United Kingdom. Mr Richards is deaf to the music of history and blind to the pitfalls of writing anthems which descend too far from the general to the particular.

Britain and France both sing songs which began life in military emergencies. Our national anthem was sung in Drury Lane as George II's troops went north in 1745 to stop Bonnie Prince Charlie. The *Marseillaise* was composed one night in 1792 by a captain of engineers responding to a call by the Mayor of Strasbourg for a song to inspire the soldiers about to march toward the Austrians. The anthem's first, prosaic and very local name was the *War Song of the Army of the Rhine*: it only acquired its present name when adopted with special enthusiasm by

Neither anthem now refers once to any country by name, an omission which can only have helped the songs' chances of survival. A fifth verse of *God Save The Queen* referring to crushing the "rebellious Scots" was tactfully dropped as England worked to unite its disparate kingdom. The excision worked: Scottish National Party politicians now complain about English football fans "hijacking" *God Save The Queen* and ask them to sing *Land of Hope and Glory* instead. *The Star Spangled Banner* makes no mention of the United States. The German anthem closes with the ringing exhortation "Bloom, my German fatherland!" but no longer includes the verse beginning "Deutschland über Alles".

Yet anthems with no roots at all and no references to any common memory do not catch on either. In spite of the BBC's use of Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* as the theme music for Euro 96 this summer, the EU's official anthem has never caught on. The English composer Howard Blake was last year asked to set the United Nations Charter to music but his effort sank under the weight of the abstract prose. To lift hearts and to last, an anthem must evoke history, community and land without being too exact about any of them. Once an anthem has found this elusive mixture, leave it alone.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Curbing strikes in public services

From Lord Campbell of Alloway, QC

Sir, Mr Knapp's letter today merely confirms the need for legislation to avoid hostage-taking of the public by trade unions whose members are engaged in the provision of essential services.

It may well be no easier to define what is an essential public service than to define an elephant. But we can all recognise that the London Underground and the Royal Mail are essential public services: services in which a system of compulsory arbitration should be introduced, so that if no resort be had to arbitration, or if the award is not implemented, the shield of immunity should be withdrawn to expose union funds to sequestration in High Court proceedings.

On the affirmative resolution of both Houses, the Secretary of State would, if the circumstances so require, designate any service as an essential service in the event of exceptional hardship to the public.

Who shall now grasp this nettle?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAMPBELL OF ALLOWAY,
2 Kings Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4,
August 12.

Postal dispute

From Mr Geoffrey H. Lloyd

Sir, Mr Robin Rhoderick-Jones (letter, August 12) rightly considers himself fortunate to be living miles from anywhere and yet receiving his post at 6.30am.

I live a mere seven miles from the centre of Cambridge and am lucky if I receive first post by 10.30am. Often, we receive a single delivery at 3pm. Deliveries on Saturdays are sometimes cancelled without warning.

This is not acceptable to people working from home, of whom there are two in this household. And this is a growing trend: hardly the time, then, to heed Mr Rhoderick-Jones's call for an even worse service. Fax, e-mail and the telephone all have their place but, for example, bulky, multi-page legal documents cannot be dealt with that way.

I am unconvinced that the blame in the current postal dispute lies entirely with the Union of Communication Workers (UCW). My repeated efforts to seek an improvement in delivery arrangements, with the support of my MP, have so far been unable to penetrate the indifference of Royal Mail. If the management treat the UCW with the same contempt they treat their customers in this area I am not surprised the union does not appear to be in a mood to compromise.

The adjacent letter on the Tube strike, from the General Secretary of the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers, also caused me to reflect whether management's role in that dispute is as blameless as they — and the Government — claim.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY H. LLOYD
(Management consultant),
Longacre, 73 High Street,
Little Wilmham, Cambridge.

Britain and EMU

From Mr Peter Hickman

Sir, I think Lord Carr, in his letter of August 7 deploring government hesitations over joining a common currency, is commenting on the eggs without appreciating the momentum of the wheel.

Just one extravagant budget by one small nation within EMU will be able to be ignored; but when two or three see the one and then run unsatisfactory deficits, then Germany or Brussels will step in and take all members' budgetary independence away from them in order to prevent the problems that one recalcitrant will have caused to the whole system.

A European currency will be the end of independence for any medium-sized European nation. There is no getting away from this fact.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HICKMAN,
14 Campden Hill Square, W8.

Facts and fancies

From Professor Emeritus P. B. Felgett, FRS

Sir, The untimely death of Mr Geoff Hamilton (obituary, August 6) is a great loss not only to gardening programmes but to broadcasting as a whole.

His obituary describes how he resisted producers who considered the actual gardening content the least interesting part of his broadcasts, and certainly we have seen enough slick, gimmicky, jokey or otherwise irritating and uninformative gardening series to know how valuable his resistance was.

It is a serious matter that this problem extends to many other kinds of factual broadcasts. Science programmes in particular are larded with diversions and irrelevancies which, so far from advancing the argument, merely distract attention from it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FELGETT,
Little Brighter,
St Kew Highway, Bodmin, Cornwall.
August 10.

Merit of modular A levels examined

From the Secretary of the Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference

Sir, Your Education Correspondent's prediction of record A-level pass rates (report, August 5) should not be taken to imply that standards have fallen. Much confusion could be avoided if an acceptable definition of "standards" was forthcoming.

Presumably we are considering the grade that is given for work of particular quality: the higher the quality, the higher the grade. Assessment of quality should be as objective as possible and should be consistent over time.

Critics of current examining argue that while the quality of A-level work has not improved some would say has declined grades attaching to that work have been steadily inflated. It will be interesting to see if the Department for Education and Employment inquiry supports this view. Early evidence from a similar HMC inquiry shows some support for the opposite view: that in some elements of A-level work quality is rising.

One such area is in modular courses. Whereas able candidates will do well whatever the system of examining, lower-ability candidates have benefited significantly from the introduction of modular schemes.

With more immediate goals their motivation is increased, they work harder and the quality of their work improves. By dividing a course with units and allowing exams to be taken the number of students able to cope with A-level has been increased. We should applaud such progress rather than seek to restrict it.

There are important practical reasons why the number of examining sessions should be limited to two per year (January and June) and why there should be only one retake within a year; but we must not otherwise discourage students who find that the modular approach helps them to produce work of higher quality. Sir Ron Dearing and Mrs Shepherd will surely head the celebrations if record results are announced next week.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ANTHONY, Secretary,
The Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference,
130 Regent Road, Leicester.
August 9.

Building land re-use

From Mr Nigel Moor

Sir, Ian Murray's Viewpoint ("Where will we build 27 million Keynes?", Public Management, August 1) shows a too ready acceptance of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's suggestion that the high cost of reclaiming "brownfield" sites is proving such a deterrent that developers will provide at most only about 40 per cent of the land needed.

This contrasts with the 1995 Housing White Paper's 50 per cent target for reused sites, which appears to have been achieved.

I searched the report. *The People — Where Will They Go?* in vain to see whether there was strong empirical evidence to support the assertions. The anecdotal evidence, based on the perceptions of participants in regional seminars, hardly amounts to rigorous research on which to assess government policy for sustainable development.

My company, working for a wide range of government departments, local authorities, utilities, landowners and developers, has found that opportunities for reusing brownfield sites continually occur. Much land has been released after industrial restructuring in the 1980s and in the wake of the "peace dividend" that freed military establishments and airfields. Changes in health services and privatisation of utilities have also helped.

It would be folly if the target of 50 per cent for housing development on reused sites, which has only just been reached, were given less weight in the future.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL MOOR (Managing Director),
RPS Nigel Moor,
Centurion Court, 85 Milton Park,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
August 5.

Butterworth memorial

From Mr Robert Gower

Sir, It was good to see Anthony Murphy's tribute (Arts, August 5) to George Butterworth, the 31-year-old musical genius killed in the trenches in 1916, for whom there is no known grave.

Butterworth taught music at Radley from 1909 to 1910. In 1985, the centenary of his birth, money was raised through public subscription and through the generosity of the Vaughan Williams and Finzi trusts to commission and install in the music school here an engraved glass memorial by Laurence Whistler. It movingly promotes Butterworth's name and art here in his native country.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT GOWER,
Radley College,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
August 8.

Spot on!

From Mr David Pickering

Sir, A suitable tribute to Britten — statue or bird table letters, July 26; August 2, 9? Judging from the state of many statues, either would be equally appreciated by the birds.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID PICKERING,
16 Radcliffe Square,
Putney Hill, SW15.
August 9.

only partly explained by the motivation throughout two years rather than final cramming to which your report refers.

Another explanation is the disappearance before the award of final grades of a number of students who have optimistically embarked on unsuitable courses, received hard evidence of that fact in early modules, and then changed direction rather than soldiering on to the end of a linear syllabus and an unhappy conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
N. W. McFARLANE,
Headmaster,
Kesteven & St Leonards High School,
Jermyn Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire.
August 5.

From Mr G. B. Atwood

Sir, Your Education Correspondent points out that only 4 per cent of modular candidates fail but offers no explanation as to why this figure is so much lower than that of candidates following a traditional course.

A major cause of this discrepancy is that candidates who have not accumulated enough points to pass the A level simply do not bother to "cash in" and therefore do not appear in the final statistics.

Consider 100 candidates following a traditional course with an average mark of 50 per cent (a grade D). About 20 of these candidates would fail and appear in the final statistics. If we assume these 20 candidates (who all scored under 40 per cent) averaged 20 per cent each, then the remaining 80 candidates would have a mean of 57.5 per cent (close to a C grade).

At a modular level in mathematics it is quite normal for 20 to 30 per cent of candidates to fail but this is not reflected in the final statistics.

Yours faithfully,
G. B. ATWOOD
(Chief examiner of modular mathematics at A level),
The Cross, Repton, Derby.
August 5.

From Miss Hannah J. Fairweather

Sir, Your Education Correspondent does thousands of us, who have worked hard for our A levels, a severe disservice.

While referring to the higher grades achieved by students taking modular examinations he omits to mention the fact that the majority of subjects remain as they have always been — two years' hard work tested in six hours of examinations.

Perhaps your correspondent would like to attempt some of our three-hour papers.

Yours sincerely,
HANNAH J. FAIRWEATHER,
7 Broad Oaks Road,
Soulthill, West Midlands.
August 5.

ment policy for sustainable development

My company, working for a wide range of government departments, local authorities, utilities, landowners and developers, has found that opportunities for reusing brownfield sites continually occur. Much land has been released after industrial restructuring in the 1980s and in the wake of the "peace dividend" that freed military establishments and airfields. Changes in health services and privatisation of utilities have also helped.

It would be folly if the target of 50 per cent for housing development on reused sites, which has only just been reached, were given less weight in the future.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL MOOR (Managing Director),
RPS Nigel Moor,
Centurion Court, 85 Milton Park,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire.
August 5.

"Virtuous cycle"

From Mr Christopher Dent

Sir, Your editorial, "Virtuous cycle" (August 9), quite rightly suggests that cyclists should lobby for better provision for their chosen means of transport.

I would, however, suggest that caution should be exercised in asking for "separate provision". Much money has been wasted on expensive and ill-designed cycle tracks which do not fulfil cyclists' needs, because they give the best routes to motorists and relegating cyclists to inferior routes which are sometimes not where they wish to be.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS DENT
(Architect and town planner),
140 Ardington Road, Northampton.
August 11.

From Mrs Margaret Bearman

Sir, Now that there is a campaign to reclaim the streets for cyclists may we hope for another to reclaim pavements and footpaths from cyclists?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET BEARMAN,
20 Oaks Drive, Colchester, Essex.
August 9.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

'Dog-in-manger' attitude to call-box

From Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission

Sir, I was dismayed to read the report (Business, August 9) about BT's dog-in-the-manger attitude to Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's telephone kiosk. By resorting to litigation, in an attempt to prevent New World Payphones and other payphone operators from using the traditional K6 box, BT is demonstrating once again its disturbing lack of concern for the quality of the public realm.

It is odd that BT should be so proprietorial about the K6. After all, it has treated it with consistent contempt, first by removing Scott's glazing bars and then, most damagingly, by replacing all but a handful of K6s with tawdry, ill-designed kiosks.

Given that record, and given the fact that the K6 was designed with considerable help from the Royal Fine Art Commission for use by a public utility, it is doubtful that BT has any moral claim to the K6 whatsoever. And since New World would, I understand, distinguish any K6s they used by painting them green, it is highly unlikely that there would be any confusion in practice with the red K6s operated by BT.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of this controversy, it should not be allowed to disguise the wider failure of any payphone operator to come up with a modern kiosk of sufficient quality to stand alongside the K6. We urgently need BT (and perhaps its competitors as well) to hold a design competition for a new kiosk. Much as the RFAC welcomes the retention and reinstatement of as many K6s as possible, that is no substitute in the long term for finding a really good contemporary design.

Yours sincerely,
ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY,
Chairman,
The Royal Fine Art Commission,
7 St James's Square, SW1,
August 9.

Yours, puzzled

From Mrs Jenny Baker

Sir, To attempt a crossword in some one else's newspaper is indeed a heinous crime, particularly if one is a guest (letters, August 8, 9).

On a business flight last year, I was crammed into the window seat and trying to fold my *Times* into a handy size so that I could do the crossword. The associate accompanying me, and whom at that time I employed, leaned forward and obligingly gave me his solution to 3 across.

We have not flown together since — I no longer require his services.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. BAKER
(Chief Executive),
The Hallingbury Centre,
The Hall, Great Hallingbury,
Bishop's Cleeve, Hertfordshire.
August 9.

From Mr Hugh Leonard

Sir, My wife is a crossword fiend and utterly without scruples. In the interests of self-preservation, I cut the daily puzzle out of *The Times*, make a copy of it and leave it beside her coffee cup. I recommend that Paul Downes (August 8) does the same under the guise of extending a courtesy towards his house guests. Or, of course, he could always leave the paper open at this page and draw a heavy circle around his own letter.

Yours, unpuzzled,
HUGH LEONARD,
6 Rossau,
Pilot View, Dalkey, Co Dublin.

From Mr David Lye

Sir, Mr Paul Downes should provide his guests with tracing paper.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LYE,
Flat A, 118 Bridgeman Road, NI,
August 8.

From Mr Stuart Dunlop

Sir, A good friend of mine does the crossword without recourse to pen or pencil when he comes to stay. At least, that's what he says...

Yours etc,
STUART DUNLOP,
Ardun House, Shoppengangers Road,
Maidenhead, Berkshire.
August 9.

From Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley

Sir, Mr Downes poses a problem: Wordsworth supplies the answer: Give all thou canst: high Heaven rejects the lore

Of nicely-calculated less or more
The perfect host ensures that every guest has a copy of *The Times*.

Yours appreciatively,
H. H. HUXLEY,
12 Derwent Close, Cambridge.
August 8.

From Miss Joanna Richardson

Sir, Perhaps Mr Downes can take comfort from my own experience. I once returned to a hotel bedroom to find my crossword puzzle completed and a note from the chambermaid: "Sorry, I couldn't resist!"

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA RICHARDSON,
55 Flask Walk, Hampstead, NW3,
August 9.

OBITUARIES

WOLFE MORRIS

Wolfe Morris, actor, died on July 21 aged 71. He was born on January 5, 1925.

WOLFE MORRIS was an ebullient character actor who filled the stage with his expressive voice and gestures. There was nothing half-hearted or understated about him, and this very expansiveness may have been the reason why he was not more often seen in the cinema.

After a promising start in films, Morris looked set to go further as a screen actor. But, as things turned out, he was to make his mark on the stage, where his talent had room to express itself.

There was something almost Method-like about Morris's complete immersion in a character (although he had far too much respect for the text ever to go completely down the Method route). Long before it became fashionable to do so, Morris was changing not only his manner of walking or speaking for a part, but often gaining and losing weight for it.

Morris was born in Portsmouth, one of nine children. His grandfather was a Russian Jew who had carried his son (Morris's father) on his shoulders across Europe to start a new life in Britain. His father, after working in Jewish music halls in the East End of London, became a businessman.

He was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, where he shone at drama. He had a wonderful voice, even at this age, expressive and resonant. His mother would have preferred him to go to university, but Morris was set on a career in acting and won a scholarship to RADA at the age of 16. He won the Forbes Robertson and Kendal prizes while he was there, and gave his graduate performance of Richard III in front of

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. She congratulated him warmly on his acting and, when she returned to RADA the next year, made a point of asking how the young Morris had fared.

As was to be expected, the war affected his career. He served in the RAF as a wireless operator in the Middle East and Far East. Afterwards he launched himself into a film career. *Ill Met by Moonlight* (1957) and *Nine Hours to Rama* (1963) allowed him to work with Michael Powell, and he made more than twenty films in all. But he was also gaining a reputation for his stage work and scored a particular triumph in *The Immoralist* in the late 1940s, directed by Peter Hall at the Arts Theatre Club. This was an adaptation of the André Gide novel, in which Morris played a young Arab boy. The homosexual theme of the play ensured a great deal of publicity.

Morris joined Robert Atkins's company at the Open Air Theatre in Regent's Park in the 1950s, and also the Royal Shakespeare Company. He had small parts in *Henry VIII* and later, touring with the RSC, he appeared in *The Taming of the Shrew*. The work of Shakespeare and Marlowe suited him well. It demonstrated his beautiful speaking voice and his enthusiasm for the English language.

In 1960 he played Godbole (the part taken by Alec Guinness in the film) in the stage version of *A Passage to India* at the Comedy, for which Morris taught himself the art of singing the Indian raga. E. M. Forster wrote him a letter saying it was the most accurate portrayal of the character he had witnessed. He played another Oriental — this time a Japanese — in *The Tea House of the August Moon* at Her Majesty's Theatre in 1954.

In the 1970s he went on to the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre where he played Sir Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* (1978). In 1980, for a particularly fine production of *Waiting for Godot* there, he appeared as Pozzo, portraying him as a monstrous, greedy, dictatorial creature in a pin-striped suit. He approached learning Beckett as though it were music, enunciating every "pause" to himself as he rehearsed his lines. But there was nothing academic or bloodless about his interpretation of the role.

His Shakespearean characters were similarly fleshy portrayals. He knew not only how to speak the lines, but also how to round out the character in a physical manner. For his Caliban in *The Tempest*, in



which he toured the Middle East, he brought out the character's fish-like qualities. But he also played excellent farce. He was the bank manager who lost his trousers in an overseas tour of *No Sex Please, We're British*.

His best television work was probably as Thomas Cromwell in the *Six Wives of Henry VIII*, in 1970.

For this he took his young daughter, Shona, on a guided tour of various castles in Britain, to view the portraits of Cromwell. Shona became an actress herself, and one of the last pieces of theatre he did was to play opposite his daughter in *Big Hysteria*. His part was that of a 19th-century French neurologist and, after touring the play in

this country, he took the production to Russia. He met his wife Eva at the Perth Repertory Company, and they were married in 1950. They lived in Hampstead and she became his secretary and manager. After their daughter had left home, she accompanied him on tours. Both she and their daughter survive him.

GERRY GOMEZ

Gerry Gomez, West Indian cricketer and cricket administrator, died at Port of Spain, Trinidad, on August 6, aged 76. He was born there on October 10, 1919.

FIRST as an all-round cricketer, then as manager of the West Indies team and finally as an administrator, Gerry Gomez was among the game of cricket's great favourites. He had the softest of manners, the firmest of views and the highest of standards.

For the last four years he had overseen, as president of the Queen's Park Cricket Club in Port of Spain, major improvements at the Queen's Park Oval, one of Test cricket's most emotive settings.

Of Portuguese extraction, Gerald Eubridge Gomez was the son of J. E. Gomez, himself a first-class cricketer from Trinidad in the days when the game in the Caribbean was still being held back by isolation. Gerry Gomez was a natural and enthusiastic games player, an inter-island footballer in his teens and a versatile, albeit unspectacular, cricketer. He died on the tennis court, suffering a heart attack while playing a regular weekly doubles.

Gomez came to England for the first time in 1939 as a young member of R. S. Grant's West Indian side, and for the second as one of the pillars of J. D. Goddard's side in 1950, the one that came with no great expectations and yet carried all before it. Gomez's steadiness with bat and ball was a useful foil to the brilliance of the three Ws: Walcott, Weeks and Worrell, and the sorcery of Ramadhin and Valentine, the "spin twins" whose deeds gave rise to the famous calypso, *Cricketer, lovely cricketer*. This was written to celebrate West Indies' first Test victory in England, achieved at Lord's in June 1950.

Gomez played 29 Test matches, in the course of which he amassed a total of 1,243 runs, took 58 wickets and held 18 catches. He was a sturdy batsman and a swing bowler of gentle pace who could turn to off breaks when circumstances required it. His one Test hundred was against India at Delhi in 1948-49, a tour on which he bore the brunt of the bowling.

He captained West Indies once, when George Headley was forced to withdraw from the second Test match against England in 1947-48. He also umpired in a Test match, the third between West Indies and Australia at Georgetown in 1964-65, when an emergency arose. As one of the radio commentary team

and a West Indian selector at the time, he had helped to choose the home side and after removing the balls at the end of each day's play he repaired to the microphone to sum things up — a tripartite responsibility of unique proportions.

The fifth-highest partnership stands to Gomez and his friend and contemporary, both at school and in the West Indian side, J. B. Stollmeyer. They added 434 together for Trinidad against British Guiana at Port of Spain in 1947. Gomez also has a special place in the history of West Indian cricket as manager of Frank Worrell's side to Australia in 1960-61, the tour that



incorporated the first-ever tied Test and ended with the West Indians being awarded a tie-tape farewell through the streets of Melbourne. The affection and respect which Gomez inspired had much to do with the popularity of the West Indians and the success of the tour.

As the proprietor of the sports goods firm of Sports & Games in Port of Spain, Gerry Gomez was able to make time to serve cricket in all its aspects, not least as the champion of the umpiring fraternity in the islands and eventually as an elder statesman. While welcoming their success, he was concerned about the premium placed by successive West Indian sides on fast, short-pitched bowling; but he was too wise to be dogmatic in his strictures.

He is survived by his wife, Yvette, and their three sons and one daughter.

KEVIN MOORHOUSE

Kevin Moorhouse, test pilot, died in an air crash on July 21 aged 50. He was born on December 30, 1945.

KEVIN MOORHOUSE who died in the crash of the last airworthy Mosquito at the Barton airshow, near

Manchester, had a flying career which began with Hawker Siddeley and involved him in testing some of British Aerospace's latest civil aircraft. Joining Hawker Siddeley as an apprentice, he had become successively a flight test observer and then a development test pilot with

Avro-Aerospace International. His career was unusual in that he had been with Avro from the beginning, and had not followed the traditional route to industry test piloting — via Service flying and a military test pilot school. His skill as a pilot was acknowledged when he was

chosen, in 1993, to fly the historic Mosquito T111, owned, maintained and displayed at airshows by the de Havilland Division of Hawker Siddeley Aviation and subsequently British Aerospace, after the aeroplane was being acquired from the RAF in 1963. The Mosquito, painted

in contemporary RAF camouflage, had been for some years the only remaining flying example of the type. It was entirely original in its specification and had never been subjected to a rebuild or restoration.

Brought up in Southport, Lancashire, John Kevin Moorhouse became enthusiastic about aviation from pleasure flights from Southport Sands, generally done in pre-Second World War types such as de Havilland Moth biplanes. From Stockport Technical College he went as an apprentice to the old Avro Manchester works in 1963, shortly after the company had been absorbed by Hawker Siddeley Aviation. His career as a pilot began when he joined the Avro Gliding Club at Woodford.

At Avro he was trained as a flight test observer and subsequently as a flight test engineer and was therefore steeped in test flying terminology and techniques by the time he gained a Private Pilot's Licence on his own account. As a result his employers sponsored him for his Commercial Pilot's Licence and he subsequently gained an Airline Transport Pilot's Licence.

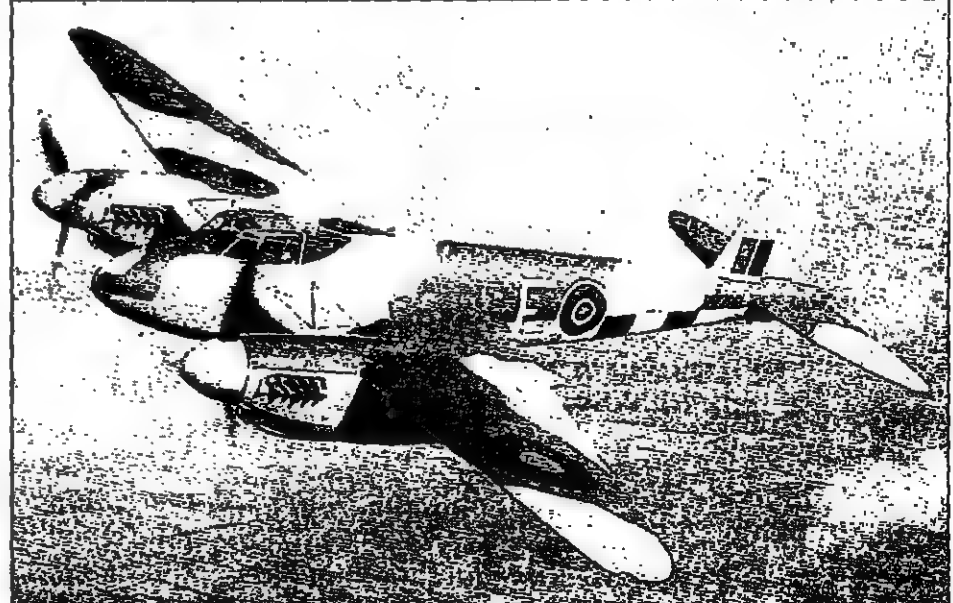
He became a commander of the company's communications aircraft and then a training captain, and took part in many military and commercial development and production flights.

He subsequently became a production test pilot and eventually a development test pilot.

As such, he flew the BAe748 turbo-prop short/medium range turboprop airliner and the BAe146, the quiet, small four-jet airliner which has been one of the company's great successes internationally. He was also responsible for much of the test flying of the BAe advanced turboprop (ATP) regional transport aircraft, which ultimately succeeded the 748. His involvement was concentrated on runway performance trials and in noise measuring tests which led to the aircraft's certification.

Kevin Moorhouse's abiding passion in life, even outside his professional work, was aviation and in addition to his test flying he was a CAA instrument rating examiner and type rating examiner.

His recreation was to fly the Mosquito, BAe's 1925 Cirrus Moth biplane and his own early Tiger-Moth — when he was not riding his Triumph twin motorcycle. He had a resolute but easy personality, allied to formidable powers of concentration and stamina. He married in 1972, Gillian Bradley, who survives him with two teenage daughters.



Moorhouse, top, and the Mosquito T111 he was flying at the time of his death

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0171 713 7770

ANNOUNCEMENTS
YOUNG CHESAIRE BRIDGE
0171 713 7770

ANIMALS IN NEED
FIND A HOME FOR YOUR PET
0171 713 7770

VICEROY TRAVEL
01476 593 123

SITUATIONS WANTED
OUTSTANDINGLY healthy, educated, travelled, mature person
0171 713 7770

TICKETS
All Cricket, Rugby & Motors
0171 488 4414

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SIR HENRY WOOD'S 40TH SEASON

The audience which filled every seat and every inch of standing room at the Queen's Hall on Saturday night was determined that the occasion should not pass unmarked by some special demonstration of its feelings. The problem of how to convey to Sir Henry Wood the simultaneous congratulatory, gratitude, and respect of some 3,000 people might seem difficult since one ovation is very like another, and there comes a point, reached long ago at the "Proms", when applause cannot get louder or even longer. But the difficulty was solved simply and spontaneously when all the seat-holders, prompted by those at the sides who stood up for a better view of the conductor, rose in their places to receive him. "The Fortieth Season Conducted by Sir Henry Wood", to quote the accurate words of the programme, began more solemnly than usual. But Elgar had to be remembered on such an occasion, especially as during the rest of

ON THIS DAY

August 13, 1934

For all the euphoria attending this Prom, the readers were not allowed to forget that the account was written by Our Music Critic.

the season his works, with the exception of the First Symphony, are to be used as make-weights after the interval. For his memorial the Prelude to *The Kingdom* was aptly chosen, since it represented the composer at his best and in an aspect infrequently presented to Promenade audiences. Gustav Holst, too, was represented by three of "The Planets", which were excellently played and most cordially received. The orchestra, led as usual by Mr. Charles Woodhouse, were evidently on their mettle, and some of the playing reached the highest possible

standard. Strauss's "Jill Eulenspiegel", written in the year of the first "Proms" and representing a composer whom Sir Henry Wood championed in the early controversial days, and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Capriccio Espagnol" were both brilliantly played. In César Franck's *Symphonic Variations* the orchestral performance was less good, and it is to be hoped that this is not a foretaste of what is to happen in other concertos during the season. The pianoforte solo was played efficiently, but without much character, by Miss Irene Kohler. The other soloists were Miss Maggie Teyte, who sang Mimi's air from *La Bohème* exquisitely, and Mr. Dennis Noble, who gave of Figaro's air from *The Barber of Seville* a performance that was perfectly Italianate both in its good qualities and its bad. By way of "novelty" we were given transcriptions for strings of two Preludes by Bach made by Pick-Mangiagalli. After Miss Teyte had sung Liszt's setting of "Mignon's Song", the concert ended with renewed ovations for Sir Henry Wood and his men.

Battlers on the wild frontier

Yesterday the guns were blazing on the grouse moors again — and the Game Conservancy Trust was looking back on another productive year. Some of its 45 research scientists have been tracking radio-tagged grouse in Inverness-shire and identifying the main threats to their chicks, while others in the North of England have been making discoveries about the best way to reseed moors where the heather has been wiped out by grazing sheep.

But the Game Conservancy Trust, an independent research charity which has been in existence for more than 60 years, is nowadays concerned with much more than game birds. The widespread decline in partridge numbers has led it into studies of the general effect on wildlife of present-day farming methods, and its research now is as much into the survival of yellowhammers and skylarks, wild flowers and butterflies, as it is with targets for the guns.

Last year the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds itself commissioned the Trust to make a study of the diet of that little-seen bird of the West of England, the girl bunting. The Trust also won the Wildlife Society of America's 1995 Group Achievement Award for Services to Wildlife Conser-

Derwent May on a charity's pioneering work to preserve species diversity



A grey partridge. Concern about falling partridge numbers led the Trust towards more general habitat research

vation — the first time the award has been given to an organisation outside the Americas.

In the Trust's Review of 1995, Dr Dick Potts, the director-general, writes persuasively about the disastrous effects of intensive farming on wildlife, and the urgent need to start reversing them. He

brings up a subject that has been practically forgotten — ley farming, or the sowing of grass within a corn crop, so that after the grain has been harvested a new crop of grass immediately springs up in the field.

This traditional method of farming brings enormous benefits to hares, partridges,

pheasants, corn buntings, skylarks, insects such as sawfly and leaf-hoppers, and flowers. The Trust has shown this by comparing a number of farms in Sussex, some of which still use and some of which have abandoned undersowing. But not a penny of the common agricultural policy budget in Britain has gone to help ley

farming. Dr Potts makes a strong case for the introduction of a new policy here. He also warns against the consequences of the proposed cut in grants for set-aside land to meet some of the cost of the beef crisis. On the contrary, he would like to see more conservation funds directed towards set-aside — especially for those

farmers who choose the Wild Bird Cover Option on their set-aside fields. This allows them to plant a mixture of crops, such as cereals and brassica, which is "non-harvestable" but splendid for birds.

The Trust has been doing many other things. On its farm at Loddington in Leicestershire, it has been planting its own set-aside fields with cover that has markedly increased the hare population, and has been seeding a wetland area for snipe conservation and study. Its woodcock studies also continue. It was Trust ornithologists who discovered that woodcock do not feed when they lie up for the day in woodland, but go down to forage for worms in fields at night — and also that they do not form steady pairs, but find mates at "leks", or communal display grounds. Deer, capercaillie and — it goes without saying — pheasants have all come under the Trust's scrutiny again.

The Trust has 25,000 members — and can boast that 16 per cent of the English countryside is now under the management of the individuals and organisations that belong to it. Pests and pesticides — you have both been warned.

● The Game Conservancy Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire (01425-652381, fax 01425-655548)

How the Trust helps brown trout Of the first water

THE GAME Conservancy Trust also has fishy interests. On the River Piddle at Tolpuddle it has been experimenting successfully with the provision of good habitats for wild brown trout. Trout need a combination of deep pools and shallow "riffles" for spawning where the water runs over gravel. "Poaching" by cattle feeding on the banks quickly leads to the silting up of a river, but can easily be prevented by fencing. Once that has been done, small weirs and deflectors can be built to steer the current of the river so that pools are scoured out again. These devices are made of pebbles held in

place by weld-mesh, a kind of chicken wire, and they soon blend with the natural environment. In addition, gravel stretches can be cleaned with water jets, and floating boards can provide shelter. In one stretch of the river where all these things were done, the trout population rose sixfold.

The Piddle is also one of the few rivers in the South of England where the native white-clawed crayfish survives. The Trust researchers found that the crayfish were absent from silty stretches of the river but abundant in the stretches cleaned up for trout. Helping the one evidently helps the other.



Brown trout need clear stretches of river to thrive

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Delay in appointing arbitrator

MR JUSTICE CHADWICK

against the defendants for, inter alia, failure to identify and report

It was also submitted that on a proper analysis of the facts and the law there was no serious question to be tried because Coopers & Lybrand (Singapore) owed no relevant duty of care to Barings plc and that, if any duty was owed, it was secondary to the duty owed by Coopers & Lybrand (Singapore) to Baring Futures (Singapore) who

(i) avoiding the risk that different courts would reach different conclusions on the same underlying facts and (ii) avoiding the risk that either Deloitte & Touche or Coopers & Lybrand (Singapore) would be sued in both London and Singapore in respect of the same transactions.

Solicitors: Slaughter & May; Wilde Sapte; Herbert Smith.

ment under section 10(1) of the 1950 Act on the ground that the delay had been so inordinate and inexcusable that, even in the absence of prejudice, it would be wrong to allow the arbitration to proceed. He based his decision on delay between 1991 and 1994, against the background of earlier extended periods of delay.

Mr Tomlinson submitted that

party who was joined as a defendant after an interlocutory judgment obtained by the plaintiff had been discharged was not entitled to the benefit of the cross-undertaking in damages given by the plaintiff on the granting of the order, the Court of Appeal stated on June 21.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR. With whom Lord Justice Roch and

interlocutorily injunctive, the cross-undertaking in damages applied to all defendants although only one or more might be retained: see Order 29, rule 1(13) of the Rules of the Supreme Court and *Tucker v New Brunswick Trading Co* ([1990] 44 Ch D 249). One could deduce the proposition that advantage could be taken of the cross-undertaking by

...which left open the position of persons joined during the currency of the injunction. Although that case did not apply in the present case, the Lordship was of the opinion that the benefit of the undertaking should extend to all defendants joined while the order was in force.

every defendant who was a party when the cross-undertaking was granted but not by any party that

That left open the position of persons joined during the currency of the injunction. Although that did not apply in the present case, his Lordship was of the opinion that the benefit of the undertaking would extend to all defendants joined while the order was in force.

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40304	Gareth Farrelly	Aston Villa	0.50
40305	Frantz Carr	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
40401	Jason Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	3.50
40402	Lars Rieker	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40403	Garry Fitzgerald	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40404	Billy McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
40405	Tim Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40406	Paul Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
40407	George Donis	Blackburn Rovers	1.00
40408	Stuart Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	0.75
40409	Matt Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	0.75
40501	Paul McStay	Celtic	3.00

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40503	Simon Donnelly	Celtic	2.50
40504	Petar Grant	Celtic	1.50
40501	Ruud Gullit	Chelsea	3.50
40502	Denise Wise	Chelsea	3.00
40505	Gavin Hastings	Chelsea	2.50
40504	Craig Burley	Chelsea	2.00
40506	Eddie Newton	Chelsea	0.50
40507	David Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50
40508	Roberto di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00
41501	Gary McAllister	Coventry City	5.50
40701	John Salako	Coventry City	2.50
40702	Edin Jasic	Coventry City	2.00
40703	Kevin Richardson	Coventry City	1.50
40704	Paul Telfer	Coventry City	1.50
40705	Paul Williams	Coventry City	0.50
40706	Wesley	Coventry City	0.25
40707	Willie Bolland	Coventry City	1.50
40708	Michael O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50
40801	Aljosha Asanovic	Derby County	1.50
40802	Paul Skippin	Derby County	1.50
40803	Robb van der Laan	Derby County	1.00
40804	Darryl Powell	Derby County	0.75
40805	Sean Flynn	Derby County	0.50
40806	David Prosser	Derby County	0.50
40807	Gary Rowley	Derby County	0.50
40808	Paul Trollope	Derby County	1.50
40809	Christen Daily	Derby County	2.00
40901	Gary McSwegan	Dundee United	1.50
40902	Robbie Winters	Dundee United	1.00
40903	Grant Johnston	Dundee United	0.75
40904	David Brown	Dundee United	1.00
41001	Handish French	Dunfermline	1.00
41002	Craig Robertson	Dunfermline	0.75
41003	Andy Smith	Dunfermline	0.50
41004	Derek Fleming	Everton	7.00
41101	Andrei Konechny	Everton	4.00
41102	Gary Speed	Everton	1.50
41103	John Ebrill	Everton	1.50
41104	Joe Parkinson	Everton	1.50
41105	Anders Limpar	Everton	0.50
41106	Tommy Grant	Everton	0.50
41107	Vinnie Samways	Everton	2.50
41201	Alan Johnston	Everton	1.50
41202	Ally McCall	Everton	1.00
41203	Stevie Fulton	Everton	0.50
41204	Nell Bart	Hibernian	1.50
41301	Kevin McAllister	Hibernian	1.50
41302	Pat McGinley	Hibernian	0.75
41303	Grassie Love	Hibernian	0.50
41401	Andy Milne	Kilmarnock	1.00
41402	Ally Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00
41403	Jim McIntyre	Kilmarnock	0.75
41404	Mark Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75
41501	Jim Lanchester	Kilmarnock	3.00
41502	Lee Bowyer	Leeds United	2.50
41503	Andy Gray	Leeds United	2.00
41504	Carrie Palmer	Leeds United	1.50
41505	Red Wallace	Leeds United	1.00
41506	Ian Harte	Leeds United	0.50
41507	Mark Ford	Leeds United	0.50
41508	Andy Couzens	Leeds United	0.50
41509	Mark Tindley	Leeds United	1.00
41600	Murphy Imke	Leeds United	1.00
41601	Ally McCall	Leeds United	1.00
41602	Jim McIntyre	Leeds United	2.00
41603	Garry Parker	Leeds United	2.00
41604	Scott Taylor	Leeds United	0.25
41701	Stevie Lawrence	Liverpool	7.00
41702	Stevie McMillen	Liverpool	4.00
41703	Jason McAteer	Liverpool	4.00
41704	Jason Redknapp	Liverpool	3.00
41705	John Barnes	Liverpool	2.50
41801	Mark Thomas	Liverpool	1.50
41802	Mark Kennedy	Liverpool	7.00
41803	Ryan Giggs	Manchester United	4.50
41804	Ryan Keane	Manchester United	4.00
41805	David Beckham	Manchester United	3.50
41806	Wesley	Manchester United	1.50
41807	Lee Sharpe	Manchester United	1.00
41808	Brian McClair	Manchester United	1.00
41809	Terry Cooke	Manchester United	1.00
41810	Ben Thornley	Manchester United	1.00
41811	Simon Davies	Manchester United	2.50
41812	Joey O'Connell	Manchester United	2.50
41813	Karel Poborsky	Manchester United	3.50
41814	Emerson	Middlesbrough	2.00
41815	Juninho	Middlesbrough	2.00
41816	Craig Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00
41817	Jamie Pollock	Middlesbrough	1.00
41818	Alan Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00
41819	Robbie Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.50
41820	Graham Kavanagh	Middlesbrough	0.50
41821	Craig Liddle	Middlesbrough	0.50
41822	Bryan Robson	Middlesbrough	2.00
41823	Phil Stamp	Motherwell	1.00
41824	Chris McCall	Motherwell	0.75
41825	John Doherty	Motherwell	0.75
41826	Jimmy Dolan	Motherwell	0.75
41827	John Hendry	Newcastle United	5.50
41828	David Givins	Newcastle United	4.50
41829	Robert Lee	Newcastle United	3.00
41830	Keith Gillespie	Newcastle United	3.00
41831	David Batty	Newcastle United	3.00
41832	Lee Clark	Newcastle United	0.50
41833	Chris Holland	Nottingham Forest	4.50
41834	Ian Wain	Nottingham Forest	4.00
41835	Steve Stone	Nottingham Forest	2.50
41836	Scott Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00
41837	Chris Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	1.00
41838	David Phillips	Rangers	2.00
41839	Tony Rougier	Rangers	1.00
41840	Danny Lennon	Rangers	0.75
41841	Jim McNulty	Rangers	0.50
41842	Scott Thompson	Rangers	7.00
41843	Paul Gascoigne	Rangers	5.00
41844	Brian Laudrup	Rangers	2.00
41845	Ian Selley	Rangers	1.50
41846	Trevor Steven	Rangers	1.50
41847	Regi Blinkle	Sheff Wed	1.50
41848	Mark Pennidge	Sheff Wed	1.50
41849	John Sharkey	Sheff Wed	1.50
41850	Graham Hyde	Sheff Wed	1.50
41851	Chris Waddle	Sheff Wed	1.50
41852	Michael Williams	Sheff Wed	1.50
41853	Ryan Jones	Sheff Wed	1.50
41854	Jim Magilton	Southampton	5.50
41855	Nell Hensley	Southampton	2.00
41856	Barry Venison	Southampton	2.00
41857	David Hughes	Southampton	2.00
41858	Matthew Oakley	Southampton	2.00
41859	Paul Tisdale	Southampton	2.00
41860	Murt Robinson	Southampton	2.00
41861	Graham Potter	Southampton	2.00

INSIDE SECTION

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TODAY



ARTS

Edinburgh pays host to the youthful genius of Velázquez
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LAW 37-39

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY AUGUST 13 1996

PK

Judge warns rebel Lloyd's names of 'exocet' effect

A LAST-DITCH assault by rebel Lloyd's of London names threatens to send an "exocet" missile through the insurance market, according to a High Court judge, who yesterday granted the dissidents more time in which to prepare a legal challenge to the Lloyd's recovery plan.

Members of the Paying Names Action Group (PNAG) saw their application for a judicial review adjourned until tomorrow, to assist in their efforts to raise at least £500,000 in funds. The delay increases pressure on Lloyd's, which conceded that victory for the rebels would spell the death of the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan. More than 34,000 names have until

August 28 to decide whether to back Lloyd's £3.2 billion settlement offer. Payment of bills is due by the end of September.

Members of the 3,000-member PNAG are seeking a judicial review of R&R on the grounds that it is unlawful. They "paid their way" through the difficult years, and consider themselves unfairly disadvantaged, compared with members who refused to pay their bills and are having their debts written-off under the recovery plan.

Lord Justice Brooke, sitting with Mr Justice Carnwath, gave warning that the case could have the effect of an "exocet" missile on the insurance market. He said he was unclear as to whether those putting up

the money were aware of the "explosive" nature of the declaration they were seeking, but agreed to a two-day adjournment.

The PNAG has been ordered to pay Lloyd's legal bill for opposing yesterday's application on an indemnity basis — the highest scale on which the taxation of costs can be ordered. Peter Scott, QC, appearing for Lloyd's, had asked the court to punish the PNAG, saying there was "absolutely no justification" for seeking a judicial review when it did not have the funds to proceed.

Mr Scott said the PNAG "manoeuvres" were not simply driven by money problems but by a desire to put Lloyd's "in an extremely difficult position", and it was not

a bona fide application. He said time was running out and the rescue package would become an "impossibility" if the rebel names succeeded in their application.

The allegation of lack of good faith was denied by Thomas Keith, for the PNAG, who said it was the unusual speed at which the challenge was having to be mounted that had caused problems.

The PNAG application will almost certainly be dismissed if members are unable to proceed tomorrow. The judge said that any further slippage would jeopardise the rescue plan's timetable. He also gave warning of the potential damage to the insurance market if the legal challenge was

allowed to remain "live" any longer. Judgment has been fixed for next Monday.

Lloyd's expressed regret at the delay, but welcomed the fixing of a firm judgment date. Tony Welford, the PNAG chairman, said that he was confident their bid would succeed.

The third auction of syndicate capacity for the 1997 underwriting year saw £197 million of capacity auctioned at a total value of £4.3 million. Lloyd's announced yesterday. This brings the total auctioned this year to £378 million, realising £8.9 million for 112 syndicates, after adjustment for approved syndicate mergers. The next in the series of eight auctions is due on August 19.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FT-SE 100	2893.3 (-7.4)
Nikkei	4,112 (-1.91)
DAX	1822.95 (-1.91)
FT-SE 100	2893.3 (-7.4)
Nikkei	4,112 (-1.91)
DAX	1822.95 (-1.91)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.4% (5%)
Long Term	100% (100%)
Yield	5.70% (5.70%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	5.4% (5%)
6-month interbank	5.4% (5%)
12-month interbank	5.4% (5%)

STERLING	
New York	1.5508 (1.5508)
London	1.5508 (1.5508)
Frankfurt	1.5508 (1.5508)
Paris	1.5508 (1.5508)
Madrid	1.5508 (1.5508)

DOLLAR	
London	1.4777 (1.4777)
Frankfurt	1.4777 (1.4777)
Paris	1.4777 (1.4777)
Madrid	1.4777 (1.4777)
Amsterdam	1.4777 (1.4777)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Oct)	£22.10 (£18.60)
WTI 15-day (Oct)	£22.10 (£18.60)

GOLD	
London close	\$367.05 (\$367.05)

Photocards reduce RBS fraud bill

ROYAL Bank of Scotland has reduced its fraud bill by almost £1 million in the five years since the launch of the Highline card with a laser-etched signature and photograph.

RBS, which has issued more than 300,000 Highline cards and 130,000 additional credit photocards, said that when National & Provincial, the building society recently taken over by Abbey National, withdrew its photocards, RBS will be the only UK financial institution to use such cards.

Andrew Waldman, director of card services at RBS, said: "We have been surprised by the lack of take-up by the industry."

Lonrho to float hotels group

By ALAN MURRAY

LONRHO, the mining, trading and hotels group, has unveiled plans for the £700 million floatation of its Princess Metropole Hotels subsidiary — the first step towards breaking up the company.

Lonrho aims to have the floatation completed by early October and then hopes to complete the sale of its African trading interests by the end of the year, leaving Lonrho with just its core mining division.

Dieter Bock, chief executive, said the proceeds from the Princess Metropole float would enable the group to pay back a substantial proportion of its £800 million debt. The company's debts include £256 million that Lonrho spent on repurchasing the Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company's 33 per cent stake in the

til the company published details of debt allocation next month.

The 15-strong Princess Metropole group last year made operating profits of £42 million, up 71 per cent on 1994, on turnover of £255 million.

The group has two principal divisions with the UK-based Metropole chain concentrating on the business conference market. The Birmingham Metropole is one of the largest hotels in the country with 794 rooms and 59,000 sq ft of conference space.

Lonrho also recently announced a £90 million expansion plan for the London Metropole, which will result in the addition of 360 rooms and the doubling of conference facility space.

The Princess group operates in the luxury holiday market with ten hotels in Mexico, the Caribbean and America. It also owns a casino in Bermuda.

Princess Metropole will continue to operate Lonrho's African hotels and lodges, which generate slightly more than £1 million of revenue a year, after the company is floated-off. But Lonrho will maintain ownership of the hotels until the African trading division is split off. Mr Bock said the hotels did not naturally fit in a hotel group that was primarily targeted at the UK and US markets.

Peter Harper, a non-executive director of Lonrho, will become non-executive chairman while Martin Bolland, managing director of Metropole Hotels since 1985, will become chief executive. Mr Bolland said the hotel company, supported by a strong asset base, would be able to expand rapidly. But he added it would concentrate on organic growth and had no interest in bidding for hotel chains.

Existing Lonrho investors will receive preference in the allocation of shares in the new group although they will have to pay the full market price. Mr Bock, who has an 18 per cent stake in Lonrho, said he would not exercise his right to purchase shares in the hotel group.

Pennington, page 27



KEEPING options open: WPP, the advertising group led by Martin Sorrell, above, yesterday reported sharply higher first half profits, improved margins and a significant drop in debt (Sarah Cunningham writes).

In the six months ending June 30, WPP's pre-tax profit was up 40.4 per cent to £68.1 million. Its like-for-like operating margins rose from 9 per cent to 10.2 per cent, while average net debt was down 22 per cent to £169 million compared with £217 million. WPP plans a 0.5556p dividend, up 25 per cent, payable on November 29.

Revenues in the first six months were up an average 10 per cent. At Ogilvy & Mather they rose 11.1 per cent and at J Walter Thompson, 8.5 per cent. Hill and Knowlton, WPP's public relations subsidiary, moved into operating profit as its revenues rose 8.8 per cent.

Analysts said the figures were stronger than expected and boosted full-year profit forecasts to around £150 million. July revenues were up over 10 per cent. The company said the Olympic Games and US presidential elections should help business in the second half. WPP is mulling the options of making acquisitions, reducing debt, increasing dividends or arranging share buybacks.

Tempus, page 28

Goeltz leaves NatWest for American Express

By ROBERT MILLER

NATWEST yesterday suffered a significant blow with the defection of Richard Goeltz, the group's chief financial officer and a key figure in the bank's restructuring programme.

Mr Goeltz, who returns to the United States to join American Express as vice chairman and chief financial officer next month, was persuaded to leave Seagram, the drinks group, in 1992 and set up home with his wife in the United Kingdom. NatWest paid £242,170 towards the relocation costs.

Last year Mr Goeltz earned a total of £362,000, which included a performance-related bonus of £88,000 and a profit share of £19,000. His salary at American Express remains undisclosed, but is believed to

be considerably higher than he earned at NatWest.

Mr Goeltz, 53, whose financial expertise was put to good use as a governor of the Sadler's Wells Foundation during his time in London, worked on a number of key deals involved in NatWest's restructuring. These included the £477 million acquisition of Gartmore, the fund management house, the £590 million purchase of Greenwich Capital, the US bond dealer, and the \$3.5 billion disposal of Bancorp. NatWest US retail operation.

NatWest said it was looking at a number of potential replacements for Mr Goeltz, although it is understood that the bank favours an external candidate.



Goeltz: key figure

Factory gate price rises at lowest for 29 years

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury yesterday hailed the latest fall in the prices of goods leaving British factory gates as the best figures since 1967 and said that they justified the Chancellor's optimism about low inflation in the months to come.

Producer output prices fell in July by 0.1 per cent, the third successive monthly fall, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics.

Underlying output prices — stripping out volatile food, drink and tobacco prices — grew by only 1.5 per cent in the year to July, the lowest rate since November 1967. Taking the latest three months against the previous three, output prices rose by an annualised 0.6 per cent, the lowest rate since April 1973, when there

were statutory controls on prices.

The Treasury said the figures were "exceedingly good". They came less than a week after the Bank of England called on the Chancellor to raise rates if he is to meet his target of underlying inflation of 2.5 per cent or less.

However, economists argued yesterday that the latest producer prices figures could give the Chancellor the opportunity to cut rates again.

Ian Shepherdson, chief UK economist at HSBC Markets, said that the rate of output price inflation could slip close to zero by next spring. He said that retailers could raise their margins as consumer spending strengthened, but underlying inflation could still fall at

the same time. Input prices — the cost to industry of imports and raw materials — increased by 0.3 per cent but were still 2.2 per cent lower than a year ago.

Separate figures from the British Retail Consortium showed that retail sales were still healthy in July, but less buoyant than in June. Sales were up 5.4 per cent against a year ago compared with an increase of 7 per cent in June.

Andrew Sentance, chief economic adviser to the BRC, said that underlying sales remained healthy, but there should be no fear that consumer spending was rising too strongly. "Calls for higher rates to head off inflationary pressure are premature to say the least," he said.

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Chief executives pull out at Cantab and Proteus International

By PAUL DURMAN

CANTAB Pharmaceuticals and Proteus International announced the departures of their chief executives yesterday, less than two months after the two biotechnology companies raised millions of pounds from their shareholders.

Paul Haycock, who has headed Cantab for nearly five years, is to become a director of Apax Partners, the venture capital firm that is a leading investor in the UK's biotech

sector. To replace him, Cantab has recruited Jurek Sikorski, who has spent the past 18 months turning round the previously troubled Proteus.

Apax first approached Dr Haycock about six months ago. Since May, Proteus has raised £9.5 million from its shareholders and Cantab has raised £25.7 million.

Dr Haycock said that the success of Cantab's share placing did not stand or fall on his continuing as chief executive. He added: "The financing is

based on the whole of Cantab's effort, all of our technology — not just me."

Mr Sikorski said that he was approached by Cantab after Proteus had completed the underwriting of its rights issue. He said that he was attracted by the opportunity of the bigger job at Cantab.

Cantab, which is developing treatments for herpes and genital warts, is valued at close to £100 million, while the USM-quoted Proteus is capitalised at less than £40 mil-

lion. The share prices of both companies fell yesterday. Cantab closed 15p lower at 633p, while Proteus fell 10p to 60p.

It is intended that Dr Haycock, 49, will gradually take over from Harnish Hale, 70, who oversees Apax's health-care investments.

Dr Haycock will continue to advise Cantab on strategy for the next two years in a new part-time role as vice-chairman. Mr Sikorski, 44, will join Cantab in October. Proteus has still to find a replacement.

In the meantime, David Gratton, the chairman, will take on executive duties.

Mr Sikorski has previously worked as a marketing director at Smith & Nephew, Wellcome Foundation, and Celltech. Cantab believes that marketing skills will be increasingly important as it tries to commercialise its discoveries.

Cantab announced first-half results, showing a loss of £3.7 million (£3.5 million loss). At this stage, Cantab's only source of revenue is fees from

development partners. Cantab ended the half with £7.4 million in cash, though this has since been bolstered by the placing.

Dr Haycock owns 131,000 options in Cantab. At an averaged exercise price of £2.22, these are currently worth about £540,000.

Dr Hale said that Dr Haycock was an ideal candidate to succeed him.

Tempus, page 28
City Diary, page 29

Profits slump at Kvaerner after takeover of Trafalgar

By OLIVER AUGUST

KVAERNER, the international engineering and construction group, has seen a dramatic decline in pre-tax profits since its agreed takeover of Trafalgar House in April.

In the six months to June 30 profits fell 56 per cent year-on-year, from £161 million to £71 million, the Norwegian company reported in its first financial results since the takeover.

But analysts in Oslo were upbeat over long-term prospects. One said: "This is a 1996 story. If you are wise you'll look through the 1996 figures and view two years from now where the underlying potential lies."

Analysts were angry that Kvaerner had offered few hard facts on the synergies resulting from the takeover and too little

quantitative information. Forecasts before results were said to have been hindered by a lack of financial data on the diversified British group. Kvaerner's shares fell almost 4 per cent on the Oslo stock exchange to 233 Nkr after the company's presentation.

Erik Tonseth, Kvaerner's president and chief executive, said there were sound reasons for optimism after the acquisition of Trafalgar. He said: "Comprehensive action has already been taken to realise the significant synergies that exist by the co-ordination of our business streams. Quite simply, we aim to be the global leader in engineering and construction."

Mr Tonseth said the operating results of the acquired businesses for the two months after the takeover had been in line with expectations. "We expect the operating result, on the whole, to be better in the second half," he said.

The construction business, which Kvaerner acquired as part of the Trafalgar takeover, suffered a loss of £600,000 in the two-month period after the acquisition, mainly because of the very competitive UK market, the company said.

Kvaerner's pulp division suffered a pre-tax loss of £13 million in the first half, compared with a profit of £1.2 million a year ago. "It will continue to be a loss-making business for the rest of the year," Mr Tonseth said.

Earnings per share declined from 26p to 11p. Operating profits slumped more than 60 per cent to £58 million, while turnover rose £744 million to £2.3 billion.

TOURIST-RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	2.09	1.98
Austria Sch	17.11	16.81
Belgium Fr	30.15	48.85
Canada C	2.52	2.52
Cyprus Cyp	0.748	0.890
Denmark Kr	9.42	8.82
Finland Mk	7.48	7.48
France Fr	0.23	7.58
Germany Dm	2.44	2.23
Greece Dr	337	337
Hong Kong \$	12.88	11.85
Ireland P	1.13	0.8
Italy Lira	1.01	0.8
Japan Yen	2461	2461
Malaysia M	191.80	185.50
Netherlands Gld	0.694	0.538
Norway Kr	2.720	2.480
Portugal Esc	2.41	2.19
Spain Ptas	16.44	8.84
Sweden Swk	247.00	268.50
Switzerland F	10.34	10.14
Turkey Lira	201.50	188.50
USA \$	1.50	1.51
UK £	187.70	187.70

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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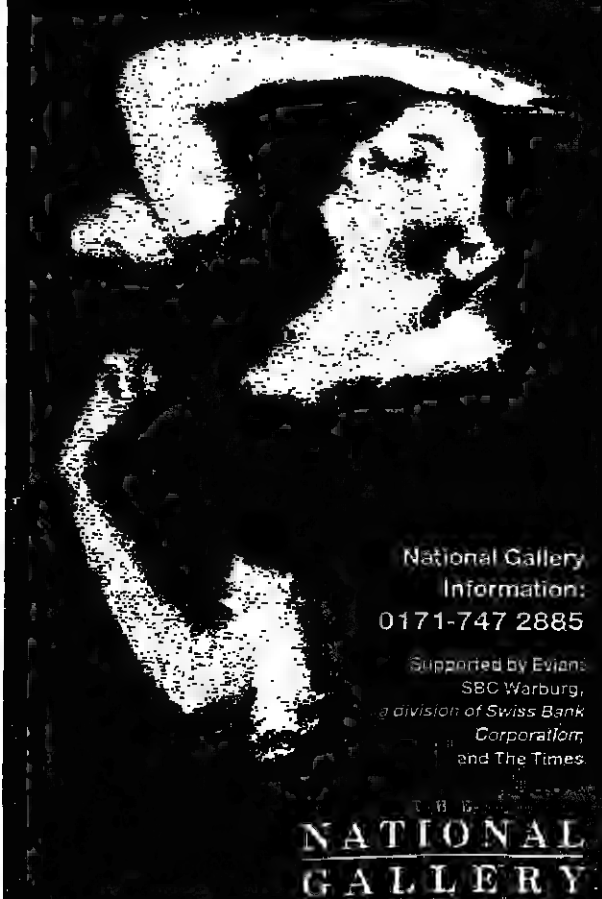
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Light fantastic: Michael Meyer, chairman of Emess, which enjoyed a strong first-half performance

Sainsbury confirms talks to buy in US

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY yesterday confirmed that it is talking to Royal Ahold, the Dutch retail group, about buying 12 supermarkets and two sites in the US.

Sainsbury is expected to convert the stores owned by Ahold, that are part of the Edwards chain, into Sainsbury supermarkets. The 100-strong Shaws chain is making good returns for Sainsbury. The UK supermarket group took full control of Shaws in 1987.

Sainsbury is expected to pay up to £50 million for the Ahold owned stores, although it would not confirm that figure.

The stores are understood to be in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts, states in which Shaws is already operating.

Ahold has been forced by the Federal Trade Commission to find buyers for 20 Edwards supermarkets, two future Edwards sites and three Stop & Shop sites after its recent purchase of the Stop & Shop chain for around £1.15 billion.

In a separate move, Sainsbury last week spent £97.7 million on increasing its stake in Giant Food, another US supermarket chain. This has increased speculation that Sainsbury is to launch a full bid, which would have to be worth more than £1 billion.

Sainsbury's confirmation of the talks with Ahold helped push its shares 4p higher to close at 399p.

BAA passenger traffic suffered after strike threat

By FRASER NELSON

BRITISH AIRPORTS lost more than 75,000 passengers through the threat of a pilots' strike in July alone, according to monthly traffic figures from BAA, the airports operator.

The group, which runs seven of the country's largest airports, said that although industrial action was never actually carried out, the prospect of cancelled flights had prompted travellers to change their plans.

As a result, it said, July's passenger traffic grew only 1.3 per cent to 9.66 million against last July's growth rate of 4.9 per cent, to 9.53 million.

Heathrow was hardest hit, attracting 5.29 million passengers, 15,900 fewer than last July. The drop was made

in spite of a 1.8 per cent rise in its air traffic, which rose to 37,300 flights.

Passenger levels at London Stansted airport grew 17 per cent to 503,000. The airport's cargo traffic was 30 per cent ahead at 8,790 tonnes.

In Scotland, Edinburgh airport continued to narrow the gap with Glasgow airport, lifting its passenger turnover 12 per cent to 379,000. Glasgow's passenger levels fell 7 per cent to 610,000 after a reduction in its number of chartered flights.

July and August are normally the busiest months of the year. BAA said that without the strike threat, underlying passenger turnover levels would have grown 3 per cent.

BAA's shares rose 1p to 489p yesterday.



Heathrow was the hardest hit airport

Emess offers new deal on preference buyback

By FRASER NELSON

EMESS, the lighting group, yesterday tabled a new deal for preference shareholders after accepting that its ordinary shares are unlikely to reach their 100p target by the end of 2003.

The company is due to buy back the 62.5 million preference shares for 100p each in 2003, or swap them for ordinary shares at a 128p conversion price. But Michael Meyer, group chairman, said these terms were restricting dividend cover and the performance of ordinary shares, which have yet to top 38.5p.

Under the new plans, the preference shares maintain their 6.25p annual payout, but the buyback deadline is cancelled and the conversion price falls to 55p per share.

Emess's ordinary shares rose 1p to 34p, yesterday as it returned strong interim results for the six months to June 30. Contracts to supply lighting for Manchester United's stadium helped its commercial lighting sector hold sales at £31.2 million. Its consumer lighting operations returned sales 14 per cent ahead, at £51.9 million. Group turnover rose by 7 per cent, to £83.1 million.

The company said the commercial and consumer lighting markets were counter-cyclical, and its presence in both sectors allowed it to weather the trends. Pre-tax profits rose slightly, to £2.4 million (£2.1 million), nudging earnings up 0.1p, to 1.0p per share. There is no interim dividend.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Mortgage index lift for housing market

FURTHER evidence of a revival in the housing market came yesterday from a report which showed that total mortgage lending rose 5 per cent in July. The Barclays Mortgage Index, which measures the activity of all mortgage providers, revealed that the number of commitments to take out mortgages is up 22 per cent on a year ago. The report said the figure was a good indicator of the level of activity in the market which has yet to show up in actual sales. During the second quarter, those commitments rose 4 per cent.

Barclays believes house prices could rise between 5 per cent and 10 per cent over the next two years. Jim Chadwick, Barclays Mortgages marketing director, said: "Rising house prices have lifted many homeowners out of the negative equity trap. As prices continue to rise, they should provide a greater stimulus to housing activity." Analysis from the index shows turnover in the housing market could rise 15 per cent this year, with a similar rise in 1997.

Airline alliance plan

AMERICAN AIRLINES said yesterday it would look to Air France as a potential partner if a proposed alliance with British Airways fell through. American said it had been in talks with Air France right up until announcing the proposed BA link and was ready to reactivate talks if necessary. BA remained its preferred European partner, American denied reports that Bob Crandall, its chairman, was using the threat of an Air France link to put pressure on BA and the UK Government. Air France said it was in talks with several US carriers with a view to finding a partner. Letters, page 29

Houston buys in US

BID speculation on regional electricity companies was dampened yesterday after Houston Industries, long touted as a potential buyer of a UK company, made an agreed offer for a gas company in the US. Houston, the Texas company which mounted an abortive bid for Norweb last year, is to pay £3.8 billion for Noram Energy in a deal that is expected to be concluded early next year. The remaining independent regional companies — East Midlands, London, Northern, Southern and Yorkshire — all saw their share price diminish on the news.

Record interims at BPP

BPP HOLDINGS, the professional education group, yesterday unveiled record interim results. Pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30 were £4.6 million, compared with £4.1 million a year earlier. Turnover rose to £35.3 million (£30.2 million), while earnings per share were 10.5p (9.4p). There will be an interim dividend of 4p (3.9p) to be paid on October 31. BPP was boosted by successful trading at Letts Educational, its publication subsidiary. Linguarum, its chain of language schools, showed a profit in every country in which it runs centres, except Russia, where it has recently started courses.

Bayer moves ahead

BAYER, the German chemicals group, yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to DM2.7 billion in the first half of 1996, up from DM2.4 billion in the first half of the previous year. Worldwide sales were up 7 per cent to DM24.8 billion from DM23.2 billion. The company said that the sales increase was mainly because of growth at its foreign subsidiaries, where sales were 10 per cent higher at DM16.1 billion. Domestic sales rose only 2.4 per cent to DM8.7 billion. The company said that it was on target to lift sales 6 per cent and pre-tax profits 10 per cent.

Opec lifts output slightly

MEMBERS of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries produced 25.59 million barrels per day of crude oil in July, compared with 25.56 million bpd in June, the Middle East Economic Survey said yesterday. The 11 members' production exceeded by 557,000 bpd the ceiling imposed by the cartel in June, in spite of Gabon's exit from Opec with its quota of 287,000 bpd and Iraq's authorisation to produce 800,000 additional bpd. Iraq has still not benefited from the partial lifting of the United Nations embargo.

New jobcentres chief

THE next chief executive of the Employment Service will be Leigh Lewis, 45, currently the finance director. He was appointed from a shortlist that included external candidates after an open competition run by the Civil Service Commissioners. His appointment will take effect at the end of the year when Mike Fogden, the current chief executive, retires. The Employment Service, which manages the national network of jobcentres, is the second largest Executive Agency in the Civil Service, with about 35,000 staff.

Henderson's fine start

HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION, the fund management group, started the first quarter of its new financial year with a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £5.3 million. In the three months to June 30, it made an operating profit of £4.3 million, 40 per cent up on the same period last year. Seligman Henderson and Henderson Real Estate Strategy both contributed profitability to the results, while funds under management rose 4 per cent to £14.9 billion with net new client funds of £302 million.

CRH expansion plans

CRH, the building materials group based in the Irish Republic, is spending £155 million on acquisitions and investments. This includes a total of £126.1 million in the United States to expand production capacity at Precast Group, the company's US subsidiary, and acquisitions worth a total of £123.5 million in mainland Europe, notably The Netherlands. The company is spending £15.1 million in Britain with the acquisition of a further ten branches for Keyline Builders Merchants, a subsidiary.

Fewer complaints from electricity firms brings watchdog review

Offer regional officers under scrutiny

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A DROP in complaints from electricity companies has forced a staffing review that could lead to the cutting of regional officers of Offer, the electricity watchdog.

But ironically the next job that could be removed is that of the regional manager, whose office covers the company which Offer said gave the greatest cause for concern over its failure to meet guaranteed standards.

A letter from Peter Carter, deputy Director-General of Electricity Supply, to all regional managers said he was considering making the Cardiff regional manager post redundant.

services last week Offer highlighted the performance of Swalec, the Welsh electricity company that is now part of the Hyder multi-utility, as the worst for meeting guaranteed standards. Its failures in the year to the end of March jumped 65 per cent to 601.

Mr Carter is looking at merging the management of the Cardiff office, currently handled by Philip Greenough, with that of Bristol under the control of Ian Fitzpatrick, the present regional manager for the south west. A spokeswoman for Offer said no decision had been made on whether to scrap the Cardiff manager's post and

Offer may also be poised to merge the management of the offices in Birmingham — where the regulator is based — and Nottingham. It has already merged the roles of the regional managers of Merseyside and North Wales. Mr Carter said Offer was looking at redeploying resources to areas whose importance and demands had increased.

But he added: "I should emphasise that I am confident that the regional offices have an essential role to play in the continuing work of Offer, not least as we approach 1998 and the new challenges that will bring."

domestic electricity when it is likely the number of complaints will jump, out of confusion from households if nothing else. When competition was introduced into domestic gas in the south west this spring the regional office of the Gas Consumers Council was deluged with complaints. Households jammed switchboards because of aggressive marketing by Sweb, the regional electricity company, because they could not understand what was happening and because of teething problems in the transference mechanisms employed by British Gas which led to an outbreak of freak end-of-account

Society looks at setting up foundation

THE Birmingham Midshires Building Society said yesterday that its wish to remain independent had not faltered in spite of plans that might lead to the establishment of a charitable foundation (Anne Ashworth writes). Birmingham Midshires is viewed as a merger or takeover target, but it has denied the incessant rumours, pledging its commitment to mutualism. A spokesman for the society said: "We are currently discussing whether we will have a charitable foundation or pass a percentage of profits to local charities. But we do not have shares that we could

John Miles 1550

□ Unpicking Tiny's African empire □ Holes in the DTI's armoury □ Predictable board victory at Aberdeen

Bock checks out of the Metropole

LOUSY coffee, rubber chicken for lunch, speeches of stupefying dullness and you always forget to remove the plastic lapel tag and are destined to wander the streets looking like a piece of misdirected luggage. Everybody loathes business conferences, the fastest growing sector of the hotel market.

Yet Lornho's London Metropole, one of the biggest conference centres in the capital, is having to turn away one customer in four at present. The decision to float the Metropole chain, along with Princess Hotels, had leisure analysts salivating. The only question that remains is just how great a burden of debt the business will eventually have to bear.

Shares in Millennium & Copthorne, the last hotel group to arrive on the stock market, raced to a 20 per cent premium when dealings started in April. Hotels are booming; the lack of available rooms and the constraints, planning and otherwise, on bringing more on stream seems to have broken the cyclical swings between shortage and glut that have always ruled the market. Kleinwort Benson's hotels team expects the supply of net new rooms built by the end of the century to increase by 3 per cent at best. Demand, by contrast, should grow by twice that.

The Princess Metropole hotels

are coming to the market via a book-building exercise that will require investors to bid what they think the shares are worth. This can be risky, in that unstable market conditions can undermine the flotation right up to the last moment, but it will ensure maximum proceeds if institutions like the business. To these can be added the debt that the hotels will carry. A flotation price of £750 million would wipe out Lornho's existing borrowings; whatever debt figure is arrived at might produce a cash surplus within the core business. How this will be divided up is anyone's guess. The hotels float will then allow a similar exercise for Lornho's African operations.

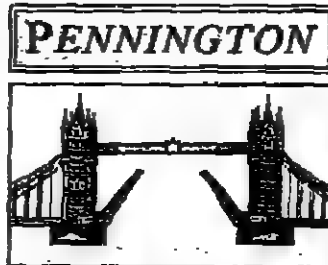
These are a bit of a rag-bag of trading, property and farming interests, but they are apparently the true passion of Dieter Bock, who ousted his mentor and father-figure at Lornho, Tiny Rowland. The mining business will be left to become a satellite of the huge Anglo-American combine which has 11 per cent and options to take itself to 28 per cent.

This will complete the dis-

memberment of Tiny's empire and return value to shareholders undreamt of during his reign. Just one curiosity: the African hotels are being kept, rather than floated along with the rest of Princess Metropole, although they will continue to be managed by the latter. This is because they are regarded as considerably more chancy investments. One wonders what Tiny, who once bestrode the continent like a colossus, makes of that view.

A clash of Titans

YOU cut off one head and it grows another dozen. The labours of Hercules might seem a light afternoon's work to those charged with shutting down Titan, the unlawful pyramid selling scheme, and its successors. The difficulty that the Department of Trade and Industry has had in banishing a shabby but tenacious get-rich-quick scheme firmly ruled undesirable by the courts shows there is a serious hole in the armoury available to combat fraud.



The first Titan scheme was banned by the High Court in June. Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott ruled the scheme, which required "investors" to put their money into Titan funds and then be repaid as they signed up further members, "highly unsatisfactory, highly suspicious and thoroughly undesirable".

The danger of such pyramid schemes is that the supply of new members must inevitably dry up, leaving those last signed up with no means of being paid back for their "investment" even if those who preceded them are in the money. The case went to the Court of Appeal, where Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, had no hesitation in declaring it an illegal lottery. He also gave a

warning about Titan "clones", similar plays designed to be the successors to the original banned scheme.

The first of such, Titan International LLC to its operators and Titan 2 to anyone else, was launched. Many members of Titan 1 had failed to recoup their money before the scheme was closed down and were automatically made members of Titan 2. The DTI naturally wanted Titan 2 shut down, and applied for the necessary injunctions.

Herein lies the problem. It requires court action to rule on what is self-evident, that Titan 2 is indeed a clone of the first scheme. That takes time. The injunctions are in place, pending a Court of Appeal judgment on whether the new scheme should be wound up. Titan 2 members are forbidden from pulling in new "investors". But there is nothing to stop the scheme's operators from creating Titan 3 and going through the same legal ringer, during which period new members can be acquired whose funds can be channelled into the first two Titans. And so on ad infinitum,

like a series of reflecting mirrors — until the scheme's originators grow tired of the legal battle and retreat to another jurisdiction.

Mad investor disease

EVENTS at Aberdeen Steak Houses have an eerie familiarity. Ali Salih, the chairman, survived yesterday's attempt to block his quadrupled salary, as he was always going to win his 80 per cent control of the shares. Meanwhile, the company is blaming fears of mad cow disease for difficult trading.

Plus ça change. The history of Aberdeen as a quoted company, which started with the refusal of a former company secretary to put his name to the prospectus, has been a catalogue of bad luck and dashed hopes. The Gulf War, the World Cup, rail strikes, the weather, you name it, all have been roped in as excuses, but the most common has always been mad cow disease.

Mr Salih has faced a grilling before from angry small shareholders, protesting about his

decision to jack up his salary by half as much again while the company made losses. And running through this, like the marbling through a fine beef steak, are hopes that the management might one day take the company private. This, and ill-defined bid rumours, has been about all that has kept the shares afloat.

Aberdeen is losing its stock market quote at the end of this year when the Unlisted Securities Market implodes. The company has no hope of a full listing. Other alternatives, such as a quote on Oxfex, the matched bargain market, would marginalise those angry small investors even further. Some companies are better off in private hands. The time is fast approaching when Mr Salih may have to put up the cash to meet the hopes of outside investors.

Heading west

FOLLOWERS of the fat cat debate should note the departure of Richard Goeltz from NatWest. Mr Goeltz had been central to several deals at NatWest with an American dimension, so it could be said much of his work was done. But he has only one obvious reason for crossing the Atlantic again — a salary and perks package that corporate Britain could simply not match without causing an outcry.

DirecTV to link with NetHold

A new force in digital satellite broadcasting is set to emerge through a partnership between DirecTV of America and NetHold of The Netherlands. DirecTV is expected to announce by the end of this month that it is buying a significant stake in NetHold for as much as \$1 billion. Neither company would comment.

DirecTV, owned by General Motors, is the leading digital TV broadcaster in the US. NetHold is owned by Richemont, the Swiss company whose brands include Rothmans and Cartier, and MHI, the South African pay-TV group.

Satellite wars, page 29

BDM in talks

Shares of British Data Management, the archive storage company, rose 14p, to 184p, yesterday after it said it was in talks that it may lead to a recommended takeover bid. In an announcement to the Stock Exchange, it said that if an offer was made, it would be at a "modest premium" to its then share price of 179p, which would value the company at about £46 million. The group more than trebled its interim pre-tax profits to £150 million in the last half year.

Letting lift

London Industrial, the property company that lets space to small businesses, said trading was 33 per cent ahead for the three months to June 30, as it lifted pre-tax profits from £895,000 to £1.19 million over the period. The acquisition of Kingsland Viaduct Estate helped to lift its rent roll to £13.3 million. Earnings rose from 4.6p to 6p per share over the quarter.

Telecoms deal

MFS, the American telecoms company, and UUNET, the world's first and largest commercial Internet service provider, yesterday won shareholder approval for their \$2 billion merger. Each UUNET share has been converted into and represents the right to receive 1.77 MFS shares, MFS announced.

Smith & Nephew buoyant despite pricing pressures

By ERIC REGULY

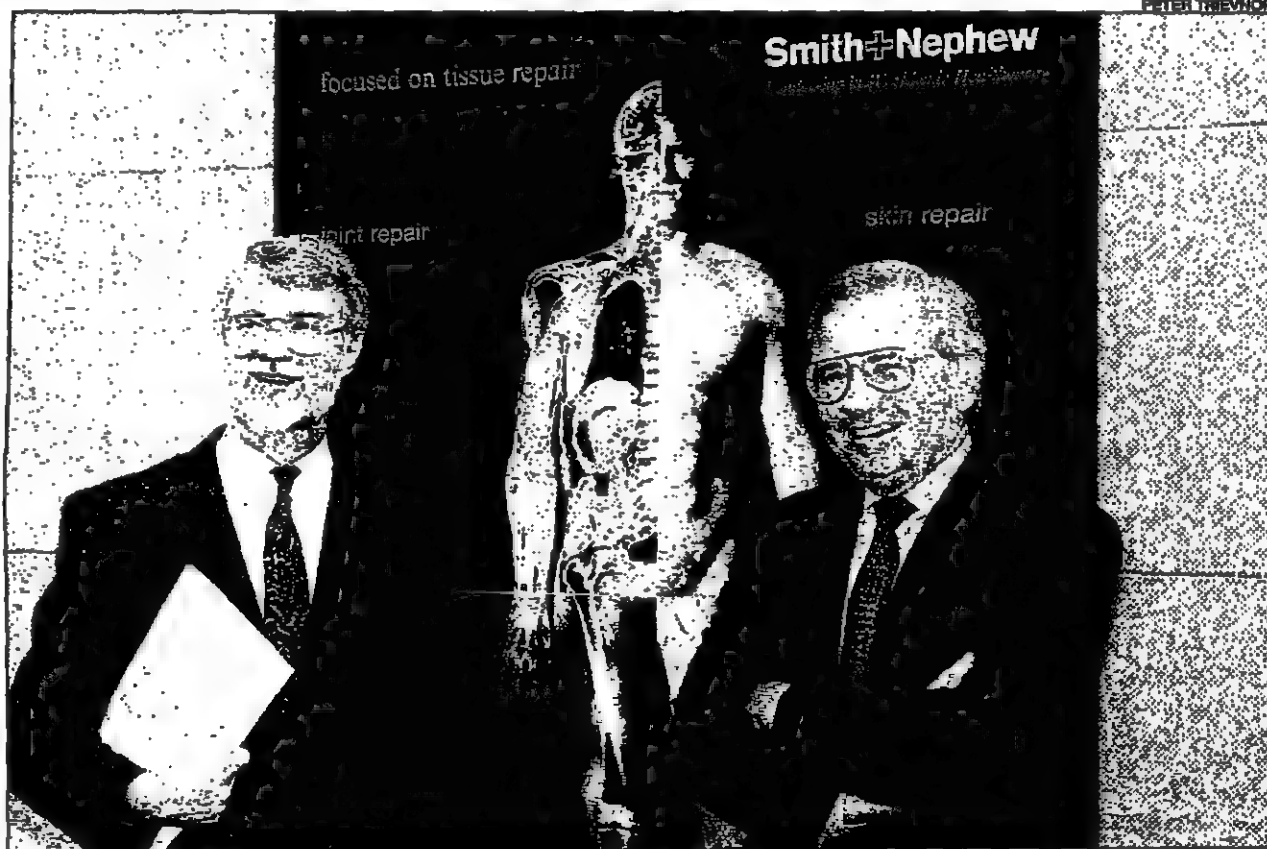
SMITH & NEPHEW, the healthcare and medical products company, reported stronger profits yesterday but said it faced difficulties in the highly competitive American market.

John Robinson, chief executive, said that hospitals and health-maintenance organisations, its main US clients, were going through a consolidation phase and were demanding price reductions. As a result, prices in the US, which accounts for 40 per cent of the company's turnover and operating profits, fell 3 per cent on average in the year to June 30.

Smith & Nephew, however, managed to maintain its profit margins through cost controls and a 4 per cent rise in sales. Mr Robinson said: "We expect two more years of tough conditions in the US."

The situation will be less grim if Dermagraft, the bio-engineered skin it has developed with Advanced Tissue Sciences, the Californian company, proves to be a hit. Dermagraft is in phase 3 trials and is scheduled to be launched into the \$2.5 billion market for the treatment of chronic diabetic foot ulcers in late 1997. Some analysts think that Dermagraft sales could reach \$500 million a year. "Dermagraft could have a significant impact on the company," Mr Robinson said.

Smith & Nephew reported a 6 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £90.8 million, in the



Christopher O'Donnell, left, deputy chief executive, and John Robinson hope Dermagraft will be a success

half-year period on turnover that grew 7 per cent to £540 million. Earnings per share were 5.68p against 5.84p. The results were in line with City forecasts and analysts at Greig Middleton and Williams de Broe said they were leaving their full-year pre-tax profit estimate unchanged at £190 million. The strongest

performance was recorded in Asia, where sales rose 30 per cent. In continental Europe, they were up by an underlying 9 per cent, against a 5 per cent rise in the previous period. Sales in the UK rose by only 4 per cent, compared with 13 per cent last year, as wholesalers ran down their inventories. Mr Robinson said that

Smith & Nephew was still hunting for acquisitions and expected to find opportunities in the US where the consolidation trend has put many medical-device supply businesses on the market. He said the company could afford to spend £500 million in cash and would be prepared to issue new shares to fund a

more expensive purchase. Acquisitions in all the company's product areas will be considered, he said, especially in orthopaedic implants. An interim dividend of 2.29p, up 6 per cent, is to be paid on December 11. The shares lost 5p to 195p.

Tempus, page 28

BAT shares hit by anti-smoking ruling in US

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

SHARES in BAT Industries, the tobacco and financial services company, fell sharply on the Stock Exchange yesterday — the first day of trading since the company lost an important smoking-related court case in Florida.

BAT shares fell 45p, to 464p, wiping £1.4 billion off the company's market value. The company responded quickly with a damage limitation exercise, saying that it would launch an appeal in the Florida State Court and was "quietly confident of success".

At the weekend, a Florida state court awarded damages of \$750,000 against Brown and Williamson, BAT's US tobacco subsidiary, after deciding that a lung-cancer victim had been misled into believing tobacco smoking was safe.

The case also hit tobacco stocks in America, with shares in Philip Morris falling \$8.375, to \$93.625, and RJR Nabisco 62.5 cents, to \$28. BAT American depositary receipts also suffered, dropping 62.5 cents to \$15.

Analysts were divided about the long-term impact of the case, pointing to a similar award made by a jury in 1988, which was later overturned.

Even if BAT loses its appeal, this particular case does not set a legal precedent, although it could

encourage other potential litigants to bring cases and increase BAT's £50 million-a-year legal fees.

The setback has also revived speculation that BAT would consider demerging its tobacco and financial services arm. But BAT ruled out such a move yesterday, saying that it could only see short-term gains in demerger. The company has already ring-fenced its financial services arm from substantial tobacco litigation losses.

Tempus, page 28

Gulfstream valued at \$2.2bn

By JON ASHWORTH

GULFSTREAM Aerospace Corporation, the corporate jet manufacturer, is seeking to sell 28 million shares through an initial public offering (IPO) in New York, valuing the company at about \$2.2 billion.

Forstmann Little & Co, the Wall Street investment firm that bought Gulfstream in 1990, will raise about \$400 million through the IPO, while retaining majority control.

The firm bought the company from Chrysler for \$850 million, and subsequently injected fresh capital and brought in new management in an attempt to improve Gulfstream's fortunes.

Today, the company, based in Savannah, Georgia, has orders and letters of intent for more than \$3 billion in aircraft, including 63 contracts for the Gulfstream V, a new \$35 million long-haul corporate jet. Gulfstream's management and operations will be unchanged.

Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley will act as underwriters to the issue.

Overdue debt sets record

By PAUL DURMAN

BRITISH firms are suffering a higher level of overdue debt than ever before, according to a survey from Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer.

During the second quarter, the average amount overdue for more than 30 days was £176,000. This is an increase on the previous record of £170,000 a year ago, and up from £164,000 in the first quarter of this year.

The figures are based on

responses from 842 companies, with turnovers ranging from less than £1 million to more than £50 million.

Trade Indemnity said industries facing the biggest late payment problems are builders, merchants, business services and food manufacturers. Exporters report that France has become the most difficult destination from which to secure payment, taking over from Italy.

Most companies reported modest increases in their busi-

ness, though steel stockholders and paper and printing firms suffered setbacks.

Trade Indemnity's overall score for production activity fell from 0.22 in the first quarter to 0.2. William Simpson, chief economist, said this was the equivalent of GDP growth of between 1.5 and 2 per cent — positive but unexciting. He believes domestic demand is still sufficiently sluggish to depress profitability, and sees little risk of a revival of inflation.

Miners given pit deadline

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

MINERS at a Welsh pit that is threatened with closure have been given a fortnight to decide whether to try to save it.

National Union of Mine-workers officials asked for at least one month to prepare a feasibility study for a workers' buyout of Point of Ayr colliery near Prestatyn, which has been offered for sale by RJB Mining for £12 million. Point of Ayr is the last deep coal mine in north Wales.

But after meeting the 200-strong workforce, company

chiefs said coal production was only planned to continue until the end of next week.

Bill Rowell, RJB's managing director for deep mines, said he believed the men would know if the project was viable "within very much less than four weeks". He added: "I would certainly not want to pull the rug from under them at a very advanced stage. If they can put a deal together we shall be as helpful as we can be."

Mining engineers yesterday began a survey of reserves at

the 130-year-old pit, which RJB says has lost £5 million since its sale by British Coal 19 months ago.

Today NUM representatives are expected to meet officials of Clay Collieries, an open-cast mining company that has also expressed an interest in a takeover.

It is possible that Clay, which operates a small number of mines in north Wales, could become a joint venture partner with Point of Ayr employees.

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STOCK MARKET

KAREN ZAGOR

BAT shares hit year low in wake of US court ruling

IT WAS a bad day for BAT Industries, the tobacco and insurance giant, which hit a year low yesterday in the wake of a Florida court ruling against the company's US tobacco arm. The shares ended the day at 464p, down 45p from Friday.

The Florida decision, which found in favour of a smoker in a tobacco liability case against BAT's Brown & Williamson arm, had sent shockwaves through the US tobacco sector on Friday amid fears that the ruling could lead to a flurry of similar claims. The sharp drop in Philip Morris shares on Friday contributed to a 32.18-point loss for the Dow Jones industrial average. But the news came too late for UK markets to respond. BAT has said it would appeal against the court decision.

Both BAT and the FT-SE 100 held up reasonably well when compared with the US. Wall Street opened lower on Monday as the sell-off in tobacco stocks continued.

BAT's loss included the impact of going ex-dividend, which eroded prices by about 10p. The company was one of many to go ex-dividend this week, taking a further bite out of the FT-SE 100, which ended the day 7.8 lower at 3803.3. The ex-dividend share shaved 11 points off the FT-SE 100. Volume remained thin.

Market sentiment was helped by the release of lower than expected factory gate prices, which bolstered hopes of lower interest rates. Traders will now be waiting for Thursday's retail price index, which will provide further evidence about inflation.

If the RPI numbers are good, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, may have enough ammunition to push through a rate cut in the autumn regardless of the Bank of England's advice. Equities were also helped by gains in the gilt market.

Pearson led blue chips higher, climbing 13p to 660p amid continued speculation that it will soon announce a bid offer. The shares have risen in recent days thanks partly to the successful sale of the Westminster Press business and partly to the company's interim results last week.

WPP Group, the advertising firm, gained 7p to 221p after posting better than expected results that prompted Panmure Gordon to lift full-year pre-tax profits forecasts.



Peter Harper, left, with Martin Bolland, chief executive of Lohr's Princess Metropole Hotels subsidiary

to £190 million from £145 million. The announced dividend was also higher than expected. During the first half, US earnings growth was particularly strong at 18 per cent. J Sainsbury was another notable gainer on the day. News that customer loyalty cards had succeeded in improving the group's market share, reversing a recent trend

Manchester United scored in the stock market after its Charity Shield victory on Sunday. The shares closed 12p higher at 454p. One dealer said: "Manchester United is the most profitable club in the country, and if they keep winning then they'll keep making profits."

of market share losses, helped the issue add 4p to 399p. Safeway, a rival supermarket chain, held steady at 342p while Tesco added 1p to 298p. Somerfield, which had a stunning first-day performance last Friday, gave up 2p to close at 157p.

The improved outlook for interest rates helped a number of retailers including Next, up 8p to 542p, and Argos, up 9p to 745p. BSKYB continued to move higher in anticipation of the company's results next week and positive analysts' reports. Shares ended up 2p at 509p. Lohr's was another winner. Shares rose on the announcement of the flotation of its Princess Metropole Hotels, of which Peter Harper is chairman, although the gains

were modest. At 171p, the shares closed 3p higher. Last week bid speculation pushed utility share prices higher. Yesterday, utilities retraced their gains on news that Houston Industries, of the US, had made a \$2.4 billion acquisition of NorAm, a natural gas resource company, quashing hopes that the Houston Industries would bid for a UK Rec

Northern Electric dropped 16p to 537p. Yorkshire Electricity eased 12p to 727p, and East Midlands fell 12p to 605p. Water company shares benefited from the Rec-related ceiling. Yorkshire Water closed 13p higher at 651p. Thames Water gained 4p to 566p. Anglian Water advanced 3p to 570p, and Wessex Water held steady at 350p. All five shares have gone ex-dividend.

Reports that National Grid may be subject to a tough price review by Stephen Littlechild, the regulator, initially sent shares in the company lower, but by the end of the day they had recovered, adding 1p to 175p.

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare company, was another early loser to regain its footing. Shares lost ground after it said that its North American markets could remain difficult for some time. The company's interim figures met expectations and the shares closed down 0.5p at 195p.

In the pharmaceutical sector, Cantab Pharmaceuticals fell 15p to 633p after reporting interim losses. British Biotech, which had been clawing its way back from its recent losses, yesterday gave up 10p to close at 215p after Credit Lyonnais Laing issued a "sell" rating last week.

Chemical Design Holdings saw solid gains on its first day on the Alternative Investment Market dealing. The shares were placed at 110p and closed at 135p. The company, designs software for the pharmaceutical and biotech sector.

GILTECH: Low volume and a narrow trading range characterized yesterday's market. Gilts rose a few ticks in morning trading on the back of weak economic figures, but by the afternoon international markets had started to sag, and UK Treasury lost their gains. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose 1/8 to 107 1/8 on volume of only 22,000. The Treasury 8 per cent 2015 advanced 1/8 to 99 1/8. At the short end of the yield curve, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 added 1/8 to 103 1/8.

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GILTECH: Low volume and a narrow trading range characterized yesterday's market. Gilts rose a few ticks in morning trading on the back of weak economic figures, but by the afternoon international markets had started to sag, and UK Treasury lost their gains. In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt rose 1/8 to 107 1/8 on volume of only 22,000. The Treasury 8 per cent 2015 advanced 1/8 to 99 1/8. At the short end of the yield curve, the Treasury 8 per cent 2000 added 1/8 to 103 1/8.

NEW YORK: Slumping tobacco shares and utility mergers dominated an otherwise quiet session. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 23.30 points to 5,658.01.

Smith & Nephew, the healthcare company, was another early loser to regain its footing. Shares lost ground after it said that its North American markets could remain difficult for some time. The company's interim figures met expectations and the shares closed down 0.5p at 195p.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 5658.01 (+23.30) S&P Composite 699.88 (+2.22)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 20860.10 (+115.59)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 11181.78 (+77.85)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 548.71 (+0.77)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2219.43 (+2.22)

Frankfurt: DAX 2529.18 (+2.54)

Singapore: Straits 2115.65 (+1.36)

Brussels: CAC-40 1978.17 (+11.37)

Zurich: SMI 759.00 (+0.80)

London: FT 100 3803.3 (+7.8)

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TEMPUS
Rise and rise of WPP

WPP continues to make startling progress, yesterday reporting first-half pre-tax profit up 40 per cent, to £68.1 million, and like-for-like margins up 1.2 per cent, to 10.2 per cent.

Even better, the combination of the Olympic Games and the US presidential election is expected to create a very good second half, particularly in the United States where the company has been building up its client base and revenues.

WPP has seen American revenue grow 14 per cent in the first six months. The US market now accounts for 45 per cent of total revenues and new US customers include Twentieth Century Fox, Kodak and IBM Personal Systems. The group has also been whitening down the staff-cost to revenue ratio. At Ogilvy & Mather and J Walter Thompson combined, this ratio has fallen from 58.9 per

cent to 58 per cent, and Martin Sorrell, chief executive, says that it remains under attack. WPP's net debt has been cut to £169 million, from £217 million a year ago, and £372 million three years ago. But the group gave no further indications yesterday about what it will do with its surplus liquidity beyond saying that it is considering every possibility - debt reduction, acquisitions, capital expenditure, increased dividends and share buybacks.

Mr Sorrell survived a shareholders' revolt last year against a performance-linked incentive scheme that could pay him up to £28 million. The company's strong performance means he is increasingly likely to get this sum. It would be understandable if shareholders now feel that any surpluses should be spent not on acquisitions but on ensuring that they, too, are amply rewarded.

Smith & Nephew

SMITH & NEPHEW'S assault on the American healthcare market is turning into a bigger slog than its generals had anticipated. The market is the world's largest, and Smith & Nephew deserves kudos for building a presence in what has turned into a graveyard for many European companies.

Unfortunately, that market is also the world's most competitive and product prices have been coming down.

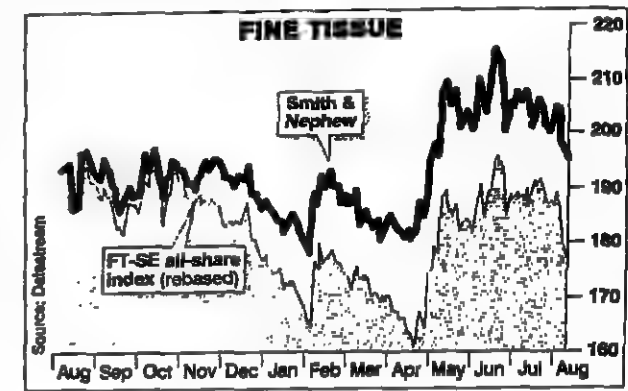
The company's main customers are hospitals and health-maintenance organisations, both of which are consolidating and demanding discounts from suppliers. Prices for products such as wound dressings, casts and orthopaedic implants, as a result, fell 3 per cent in the

first half of this year

and there is not sign of a turnaround in the short term. Smith & Nephew predicts that prices will be under pressure for another two years, some analysts think the tough times could last even longer. The company also faces the cost of launching several new products, notably an off-the-shelf bio-

engineered skin called

Demagraft. Investors should not necessarily abandon the stock. Indeed, bid speculation, as it did this year, could send the shares soaring at any time. But until the American market loses its mean streak, it is unlikely that Smith & Nephew will be anything but an average performer.



Proteus

BIOTECHNOLOGY is a fast-moving sector. So perhaps we should not be surprised that just weeks after tapping their shareholders for millions of pounds, the chief executives of Cantab Pharmaceuticals and Proteus International are leaving to take up new jobs. The news still leaves an odd taste in the mouth. Attempts to woo Proteus's Jurek Sikorski to Cantab began in May, while the two companies were still marketing their share issues. Of course, neither company felt it necessary to burden investors with a minor detail like the imminent departure of their chief executives.

The real value in biotech stocks lies in the anonymous scientists beavering away in the laboratory. Nonetheless, Mr Sikorski and Cantab's Paul Haycock have done well to turn round companies that seemed to be going nowhere 18 months ago.

Dr Haycock's move to

Apax Partners, the venture

capitalist, may initially seem strange. With its key virus technology entering clinical trials and fresh from an important deal with SmithKline Beecham on gene therapy, Cantab still has tremendous potential. However, Apax has its fingers in many biotech pies, and Dr Haycock will be able to use his expertise on a much wider front.

Proteus, as ever, remains a worry. No sooner has it resolved its money problems and secured a vote of confidence in its cancer treatment than it loses the architect of its revival. Handle with extreme care.

BAT Industries

THE plunge in BAT's share price after a sell-back in the US courts at the weekend will be wearisome familiar to investors in the company.

Every time that any of the leading tobacco companies suffer a reverse in the

labyrinthine US legal

system, the market makes a knee-jerk write-down in the share prices. This is normally followed by a period of recovery as the full legal consequences of the case become clearer.

There is no reason to believe that the latest case will result in a different outcome.

A jury in Florida has awarded damages to a former smoker who suffers from lung cancer. But BAT believes that the judge allowed inadmissible evidence in the trial and is confident that the decision will be overturned in the state appeal court. Even if it was not, and the company would then have further recourse to appeal through the federal courts, this case does not set a precedent for other damages cases.

BAT and the other tobacco companies face more legal challenges and, in all probability, further defeats. The volatility in BAT's share price is, therefore, set to continue.

COMMODITIES									
LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE					LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				
COCOA					WHEAT				
Sept	1629-1632	Dec	1629-1632	Volume 1000 Bids	Close (100 c)		Close (100 c)		
Oct	1629-1632	Dec	1629-1632	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	108.15	Sept	108.40	
Nov	1629-1632	Dec	1629-1632	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	108.15	Oct	108.40	
Mar	1083-1083	May	1119-1100	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	113.15	Jan	109.00	
Apr	1083-1083	May	1119-1100	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	115.00	Mar	109.00	
Jul	1073-1074	Oct	1119-1100	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	117.00	Apr	109.00	
Sept	1084 B1D	Volume 3932			Volume 1000 Bids	Volume 57			
ROBUSTA COFFEE (S)					RUBBER (S)				
Sept	1946-1961	May	1946-1961	Volume 1000 Bids	POTATO (S)	Open	Close		
Oct	1946-1961	May	1946-1961	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	95.00	Nov	95.00	
Nov	1946-1961	May	1946-1961	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	95.00	Dec	95.00	
Mar	1946-1961	May	1946-1961	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	95.00	Apr	95.00	
Apr	1946-1961	May	1946-1961	Volume 1000 Bids	Volume 1000 Bids	Volume 17			
WHITE SUGAR (S)					RUBBER (S) 1000 c				
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	BUFFEX (S) 1000 c	Open	Close		
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	85.75	Sept	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	85.75	Mar	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jun	85.75	Jun	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jul	85.75	Jul	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Aug	85.75	Aug	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	85.75	Sept	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	85.75	Mar	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jun	85.75	Jun	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jul	85.75	Jul	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Aug	85.75	Aug	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	85.75	Sept	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	85.75	Mar	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jun	85.75	Jun	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jul	85.75	Jul	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Aug	85.75	Aug	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	85.75	Sept	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
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Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Sept	85.75	Sept	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	85.75	Mar	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jun	85.75	Jun	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jul	85.75	Jul	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Aug	85.75	Aug	85.75	
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Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
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Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
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Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Oct	85.75	Oct	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Nov	85.75	Nov	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Dec	85.75	Dec	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jan	85.75	Jan	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Feb	85.75	Feb	85.75	
Oct	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Mar	85.75	Mar	85.75	
Nov	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Apr	85.75	Apr	85.75	
Mar	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	May	85.75	May	85.75	
Apr	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jun	85.75	Jun	85.75	
Jul	34.50-34.50	May	34.50-34.50	Volume 1000 Bids	Jul	85.75	Jul	85.75	
Sept	34.50-34.50	May</							

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Capel team decamps

ANOTHER wave of resignations has hit HSBC James Capel, the securities firm dogged by talk of internal strife. In the latest shake-out, most of Capel's pan-European equity derivatives team has decamped to NatWest Securities.

Jason Good, Simon Monson, and Raoul Pal, join NatWest's London operation, reporting to Shaun Cutler. In Hong Kong, Tom Ashworth, former head of UK derivative sales at Capel, has resigned after ten years to join Wheelock NatWest Securities, the bank's local joint venture.

The departures are a blow to Capel, which has lost three European salesmen and four long-serving UK sales traders in recent weeks. NatWest came top in the annual EMI investment analysis survey, pipping Capel, which formerly held the crown for 11 years in a row.

Party time

JOHN KEMP-WEICH had better not be superstitious. The Stock Exchange chairman is inviting City VIPs to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Big Bang a month before the actual date on October 27. A reconstruction of Jonathan's Coffee House from the 18th century, waiters in bowler hats, and caricatures are all in place for the party on September 25 that is to be held on the old market trading floor. But why so early? According to the Stock Exchange: "We're leasing the floor to Life, and this is the only week free. I'm sure it's nothing. Our guests are all very empirically minded."



Kemp-Welch: better not be superstitious

JUREK SIKORSKI, the newly appointed chief executive of Cantab Pharmaceuticals, ought to bring a touch of Poland to the Cambridge company. Sikorski, 44, was born in a refugee camp in Cienecze, where his parents met and married. Sikorski and his family lived there for eight years. Now the father of two makes an annual pilgrimage to visit his relatives in Poland.

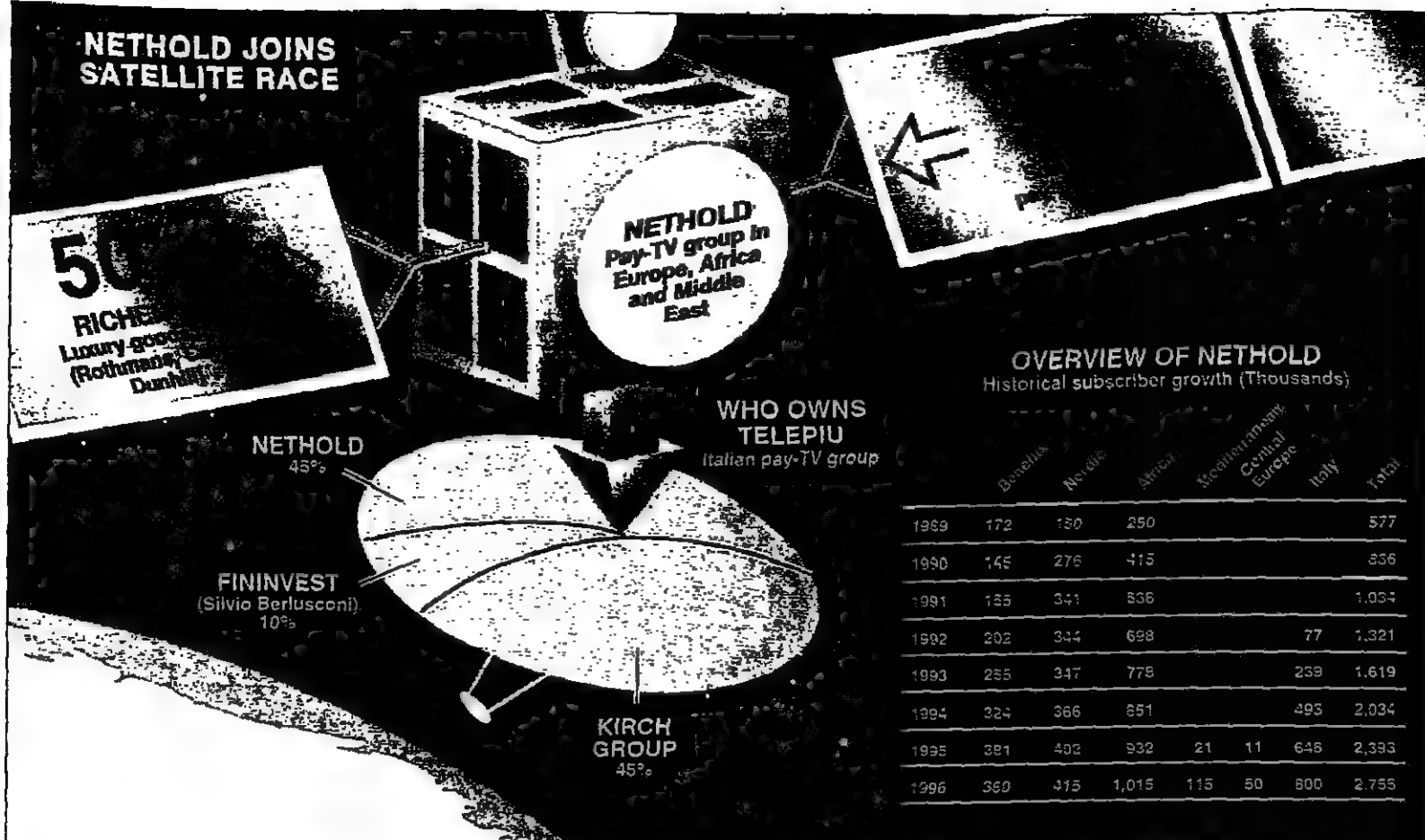
Dream date

BACK at her old desk in Victoria Street yesterday as director of PR firm Atkinson Courage, Jane Atkinson, the Princess of Wales's former publicity adviser, who now looks after Avis Europe and the Equal Opportunities Commission, appears to have had a shaky start. Reinstating herself in the City, Atkinson plumped for Lord Archer as her first luncheon date at Le Caprice, describing him as "every lady who lunches' dream".

Off the hook

BT LET a North Yorkshire village hall off the hook yesterday, after originally insisting it pay £475 for a 20-hour call to a chat hotline. The Sharow-based committee were astonished to receive a £520 demand — almost 12 times the size of its normal quarterly bill. This one, however, indicated that someone had rung up "Friendly Chatterway" and failed to replace the receiver. The committee made an impassioned plea to BT, arguing that the call must have been made by a trespasser, and the bill has now been waived.

MORAG PRESTON



Link-up that could raise the stakes in satellite TV wars

Eric Reguly looks into the latest planned alliance in television's hottest market

A powerful new player is set to take the burgeoning digital television industry by storm. DirecTV, an American pay-TV company owned by General Motors, and Nethold, the South African group that launched Europe's first digital TV service in 1995, are expected to unveil a global partnership before the end of the month.

Together, DirecTV and Nethold would have operations in the US, South America, Japan, Africa, the Middle East and several European countries. They would be able to provide everything from satellites and subscriber management systems to decoders and programmes such as movies and sport. But their greatest strength is financial might, enabling them to compete with the likes of BSkyB of Britain, Kirch and Bertelsmann of Germany, CLT of Luxembourg, and Canal Plus and Havas of France as they form partnerships of their own to attack TV's hottest market.

General Motors and Hughes have made overseas expansion a priority for DirecTV. In partnership with four South American telecoms and media companies, it recently launched a 200-channel Spanish and Portuguese service called Galaxy Latin America. It will compete with a similar service started by The News Corporation, the ultimate owner of The Times and 40 per cent of BSkyB, along with partners from Mexico and Brazil. Next year DirecTV will launch DirecTV in Japan.

Nethold, based in The Netherlands, is a remarkable story of a broadcaster that has come out of nowhere to become one of the world's top satellite TV businesses. The company's roots go back to 1985 when M-Net, the first pay-

at amazing speed. By the spring of this year, it had 1.4 million subscribers and will probably finish the year with more than twice that number. It bombards viewers with 175 channels and owes much of its growth to coverage of the National Football League games and Hollywood films.

In January, DirecTV got a vote of confidence when AT&T, America's largest long-distance phone company, bought a 25 per cent stake for \$137.5 million, valuing it at \$5.5 billion. AT&T is using its own salesforce to recruit DirecTV customers and has an option to increase its stake to 30 per cent over five years.

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TV channel in the southern hemisphere, was founded in South Africa by Ton Vosloo, a former Afrikaner newspaperman, and Koos Becker, an Afrikaner law graduate who was studying electronic communications at Columbia University.

By 1990, M-Net had 500,000 subscribers and became one of the glamour stocks on the Johannesburg stock exchange. At the time, South Africa was still a pariah state and the prospect of expanding M-Net throughout Africa and into Europe was unimaginable. But the social and political reforms of F. W. de Klerk, then President, were to make South African companies more acceptable on the international stage.

In 1991, Richmond and M-Net got together to buy FilmNet, a pay-TV channel broadcasting in the Benelux and Nordic countries. Two years later, FilmNet and M-Net split their activities, forming a channel company and a subscriber management company, called Multichoice. Nethold was formed in 1995 through the consolidation of all these companies, and Mr Becker was made chief executive.

By then, Nethold had expanded across Africa and into southern and central Europe. Its greatest success came in Italy, where it owns 45 per cent



Telepiu has exclusive rights to live Italian football games featuring the likes of Milan's Dejan Savicevic, left, and Roberto Baggio

BUSINESS LETTERS

Alliance of BA and American will lead to more transatlantic competition

From the Chief Executive of British Airways
Sir, To the complete contrary of what Richard Branson says in his letter (Business Letters, August 9), the alliance between British Airways and American Airlines will increase airline competition across the Atlantic.

Its approval hinges on the UK and US Governments agreeing to end their remaining restrictions, allowing any airline from the two companies to fly as often as they

like on any route between Britain and the United States. Airlines are already lining up to take advantage of this, and that can only mean more competition. For the consumer, that means more downward pressure on fares, which have already fallen by 40 per cent in five years, with British Airways offering lower public fares to the United States than any other UK or US airline. And it can only mean more upward pressure on quality standards.

The all-party House of Commons Transport Select Committee is the only independent arbiter so far to reach conclusions on the full arguments for an against our alliance. It has urged a quick decision; it has found that it could be a means of ensuring that the UK remains a major player in the world air transport industry; and has concluded that it should not be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

British Airways has wanted

to fly within the United States for ten years but, as Mr Branson knows full well, the US Congress has never allowed any foreign airline to do so.

And they will not do so in the future.

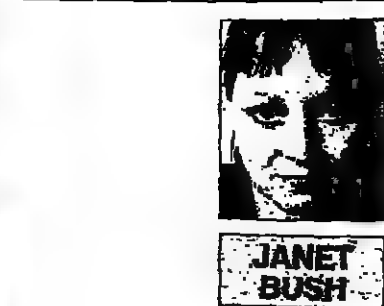
Yours faithfully
ROBERT AYLING,
Chief Executive,
British Airways,
Speedbird House,
PO Box 10,
Heathrow Airport,
Hounslow.

Audit liability and 'Caparo'

From Mr Duncan Alexander
Sir, Many shareholders will applaud D. F. Murray's letter (Business Letters, August 6), which calls for more accountability in the audit liability debate. Since the rather strange House of Lords Caparo judgment in 1990, investors have lost their right to make investment judgments on audited accounts.

In the longer term, the proposal to open the audit function to other labour groupings such as lawyers, may provide the competitive spur to enable investors to contract around the Caparo problem.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ALEXANDER,
Gillridge Lane,
London Road,
Crowborough,
East Sussex.



Franc in toils over Treaty

Edie George may yearn for the day when the Bank of England has proper independence from political control but for now he must be thankful not to be Jean-Claude Trichet, his opposite number at the Bank of France. Our Governor has had to swallow some blockish joshing from the Chancellor about always being too pessimistic about inflation but M Trichet appears to be subject to no less than a concerted political campaign against him.

The French franc took a dive on Friday after the French Government announced a move to prosecute former bosses of the state-owned bank Credit Lyonnais. The move was seen as a rebuke to M Trichet, banking supervisor at the time. In last year's presidential campaign, Jacques Chirac upbraided M Trichet for calling for wage restraint last month he criticised banking supervision and complained that interest rates were too high.

Of course, some of this is down to political rivalry. Kenneth Clarke has the relative luxury of taking final decisions on interest rates. President Chirac, a far larger ego, has to play second fiddle to M Trichet, an independent central banker and former aide to Edouard Balladur. Mr Chirac's erstwhile rival. With unemployment at record levels, M Trichet is an ideal scapegoat.

Speculation about a Chirac/Trichet rift, which sent the franc down on Friday, seemed to have blown over yesterday. But the difficulties between the two men goes to the heart of France's current dilemma. President Chirac is looking for an exit route from economic stagnation and M Trichet is blocking it. In spite of speculation that France has asked Germany for a delay to the 1999 start date for monetary union, President Chirac and the French Establishment remain absolutely committed to the project — sooner or later. That means more deficit reduction to get borrowing down to the magic Maastricht limit of 3 per cent of GDP. The 1997 budget, due late next month, will promise to freeze public

spending but this won't be enough. Adrian Owens of Julius Baer Bank believes that further cuts worth 1 per cent of GDP would have to be found to meet the Maastricht deficit rule.

With unemployment at 12.5 per cent, there will be more social unrest this autumn as public spending is frozen or cut. And popular discontent is more than justified given that the Government promised in the 1994 parliamentary elections to reduce the tax burden, a pledge repeated by Mr Chirac. Worse, the constant tightening of the fiscal screws is digging a huge economic hole.

The economy just cannot grow enough. Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe reckons that growth will only be 0.6 per cent this year, not the 1.3 per cent the Government hopes for. The deficit will worsen and France will fall rapidly behind a recovering Germany, an creating the economic divergence that contradicts the entire design of Maastricht.

The escape route is monetary. French rates could be cut even if German ones aren't. A fall in the franc, far from being a disaster, would be invaluable. Why, Mr Chirac may argue, is M Trichet so intent on keeping the franc within its old narrow ERM bands when the system is operating wide 15 per cent limits? The franc could fall nearly 15 per cent and still meet the currency criteria of Maastricht.

M Trichet will not countenance such a travesty. If the commitment to a strong franc faltered, he would argue, the slide could become unstoppable and rates would rise sharply. But why should this be so? First, currency dealers would probably see the franc as a bargain, even 5 per cent below current levels. Secondly, investors might like French bonds more rather than less if a currency depreciation rescued the economy.

The argument is likely to be settled by default. By the end of this year, the markets will see how anaemic growth has been and how much more intractable the deficit problem has become, and will deliver Mr Chirac's franc depreciation without M Trichet's permission.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 13 1996

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TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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■ EDINBURGH

The National Gallery of Scotland stuns festivalgoers with Velázquez in Seville



■ EDINBURGH

... while at the Traverse a complex French murder trial is recreated in *Portrait of a Woman*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ EDINBURGH

... and in the Usher Hall Donald Runnicles launches the concert programme with Beethoven



■ EDINBURGH

Robert Lepage opens in his new one-man show, *Elsinore*: Benedict Nightingale gives his view tomorrow

OPENING CONCERT

Beethoven at the gallop

As if in defiance of George Steiner's plea in his controversial festival lecture for the reinvention of festival programming, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony rang out at the start of this year's Edinburgh Festival, reaffirming for a new generation of listeners, movers and dreamers those ideals of universal brotherhood and of a vision of life that transcends the material which gave such momentum to the founding of the festival 50 years ago.

Yes, 50 years holds an immensity of change. And yes, it often seems that the impotence of the arts stands horribly naked among the barbarians. And Professor Steiner is not the first, by some six centuries at least, to have noted it. But who would dare measure the invisible movement of the human spirit as stirred and transformed by music or verse? A *Survivor From Warsaw*, whom Schoenberg and Olaf Beer (as narrator) celebrated in this opening concert, tuned his speech to song, not to the dance of science, and so did the prisoners of Terezin. Have our joys, our energies — our horrors, too — changed so very much since 1947? Are these cultural ideals now mere "born-out-ghosts"? Or is it rather our reception and assimilation of them that needs reinventing?

Be all this as it may — and Steiner certainly provided the festival with soul searching — Sunday's opening Beethoven performance, with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra conducted by Donald Runnicles, did provide ammunition for the professor's weaponry. The symphony was

RSNO/Runnicles
Usher Hall,
Edinburgh

dispatched within an hour — and dispatched is the word. As if impatient to reach its "Ode to Joy", it scurried over too much of the uncertainty, the tumult and the struggle essential to gain it.

A certain sparseness and imbalance of texture at the centre of the orchestral palette, and a lack of rhythmic ballast caused by edgy pacing, made the opening movement over-frisky; just what Beethoven surely wished to avoid with his restraining tempo directions. And by the slow movement, its viola melody cavalier, its variations reduced by speed to the pedestrian, the ear's experience became similar to that of an eye wearied by too much foreground detail and longing for more distant horizons.

The finale hurtled forward with the cellos' exposition of the great song creeping colourless on its way. Then, ignition. Bryn Terfel's exultation to joy revealed him as the sole performer so far who seemed to know anything of what it was to be *feuertunken*, drunk with fire. The Edinburgh Festival Chorus, thank goodness, followed his lead, and the soprano of Hillevi Martinpelto forged a bright, firm frame for their voices and those of the other two soloists, Jane Irwin and Heinz Kruse. That "new motif of life" offered by the festival's first Lord Provost in 1947 seemed within grasp after all.

HILARY FINCH



"The exquisite detailing looks forward to the intensely expressive painting of his maturity": Velázquez's *A Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus* (National Gallery of Ireland)

Old master, young talent

VISUAL ART: John Russell Taylor on stunning shows of works by the young Velázquez and contemporary Chinese painters

People often wonder why the majority of the great international loan exhibitions in Paris or New York do not come to Britain. Money obviously has something to do with it; likewise the length of time that lenders are willing to be without their cherished possessions.

But a very important consideration is the pull of key works sited in Britain to begin with. It makes perfect sense that a big Gauguin show for example, would not come here,

because Britain's holding of essential Gauguins is far out-classed by those of several other European countries, and America. On the other hand, the National Gallery of Scotland's stunning show, Velázquez in Seville, is the artistic centrepiece of this year's Edinburgh Festival primarily because the gallery owns one of the supreme masterpieces of

Velázquez's youth, *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs*. Obviously this was the inspiration for the gallery to organise the show, putting as it does one of Scotland's greatest treasures in context. The astonishing thing is that when Velázquez moved from his native Seville to Madrid in 1623, he was only 24. This means that all these Seville works were painted when he was in his teens or barely out of them; the *Old Woman* was painted when he was just 19. Clearly he was a precocious genius. What an exhibition like this enables us to do is to determine just how precocious, just how extraordinary.

Virtually all of the surviving works from Velázquez's Seville years are on display, borrowed from as far afield as St Petersburg, Chicago, Budapest, and, of course, Madrid. But they are supported by a revealing selection of paintings, sculpture and prints by predecessors and contemporaries, including several pieces by his father-in-law, Francisco Pacheco. These make clear not only how thoroughly Velázquez belonged in his historical context, but also how far he exceeded it.

His favourite genre in these early years, the so-called *hogueras* or horizontally composed kitchen scenes, such as *A Kitchen Maid with the Supper at Emmaus*, was popular in Seville at the time, and he certainly did not invent it. But the exquisite detailing of these generally dark-toned scenes is peculiar to him, and looks forward to the intensely expressive painting of his maturity. *An Old Woman Cooking Eggs* or the London National Gallery's *Kitchen Scene with Christ in the*



House of Martha and Mary are superbly composed, occupying their wide, low space with complete confidence, but they also lend themselves to the extraction of details: a gift to the gallery's marketing division, which offers everything from a recreation of a Velázquez jug to T-shirts.

This apart, the paintings are uniquely satisfactory to look at with closer and closer attention. In particular, Velázquez emerges as an inspired painter of still lifes, as well as an acute observer of human character. For several of these works he uses the same "stock company" of models, shuffling them slightly or changing the poses from canvas to canvas. One can divine the effect his work had on his contemporaries from the numerous imitations, variations and possible copies of lost originals. One can also measure the distance he travelled in a very short time by comparing Pacheco's giant *Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary*, an estimable if rather stolid painting, with his pupil and son-in-law's version painted very shortly afterwards, in which the Virgin hovers magically against an overcast night sky.

When Velázquez went to Madrid he took one of his earlier paintings with him, the *Waterseller of Seville* (now

borrowed from Apsley House in London). Evidently he regarded this as a sufficient testimony of his already unique skills. It seems that he was never the most modest of men. On the evidence of this painting, with its incomparable rendering of the water splashing down the side of the great water pot in the foreground and its vivid characterisation of the old waterseller, it would have been difficult to argue with Velázquez.

The most exciting of the other Edinburgh Festival shows could hardly be more different. Reckoning with the Past gathers together in the Fruitmarket Gallery the work of 15 contemporary Chinese painters from mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. The title refers more to the subject-matter and the artists' attitudes than to the styles in which they paint. Two things are immediately remarkable: that without looking at the catalogue one could not tell for certain which are from the mainland and which from the islands; and that all the heterogeneous influences, which only five years ago were bumping up against one another, largely unabsorbed, in Chinese art have been taken on board, understood, and turned effortlessly to the individual purposes of a new generation of artists.

The works which express most completely Chinese art today are probably the palimpsest paintings of the Peking artist Mao Lizi. They are in a sense graffiti paintings, but have nothing to do with the raucous New York expressions we associate with the term. Rather, they are stunningly illusionist pictures of imaginary vandalised murals,

with an already defaced Mao superimposed on a scraped and faded Buddha, or a stuck-on label so believably attached to a simulated temple wall that apparently visitors have to be restrained from trying to peel it off. These are pictures that work on many levels, from the most obvious and literal to the most subtly symbolic "reckoning with the past" indeed.

But this is by no means the only approach at work. The intensely coloured, dreamlike paintings of Wang Xingwei invent their own world, as it might be in the studio of an old-fashioned studio photographer with a lot of artificial backdrops, and people it with modern dressed figures who appear to mistake the dream for reality. Sze Yuen, from Hong Kong, draws endless panoramas of scenes from life, film and fantasy that merge into one another like the narrative progression of an antique scroll painting.

Zhang Xiaogang, hitherto the best known outside China, offers more of his curiously waxen images of young Chinese with unexplained threads and patches of colour superimposed. Feng Mengbo's *Street-fighter* paintings are inspired by Pop Art and computer games, and would surprise one not a jot if they came straight from Chicago.

Yang Yiping embraces Western realism in a very different, much more traditionally painterly way, almost like a Chinese Hopper but imposing a strongly individual vision. Clearly from now on we have to expect the unexpected from the new Chinese artists.

● Velázquez in Seville is at the National Gallery of Scotland, The Mount (0131-556 8921) until Oct 29.
● Reckoning with the Past is at the Fruitmarket Gallery, 45 Market Street (0131-225 2383) until Sept 28.

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Request for Expressions of Interest

HELPING LONE PARENTS TAKE UP WORK

1. The Department of Social Security, in association with the Department for Education and Employment, will, from April 1997, be running a pilot scheme to help lone parents take up work. We are seeking proposals from interested organisations for services and schemes to help achieve this objective. We particularly want to help the large number of lone parents dependent on Income Support to become self-supporting.

2. Proposals should aim to help lone parents to overcome barriers to taking up and keeping a job in order to improve their living standards and long-term prospects. The schemes and services would have to demonstrate their cost-effectiveness and be replicable in other areas.

3. Funding of up to £1m in total is available in each of the financial years 1996/7, 1997/8 and 1998/9. This is for single or multi-year projects which fall within the criteria set out below.

The Department is interested in receiving proposals and expressions of interest of two kinds:

PILOT SERVICES

4. A range of services to be provided in a number of geographical areas where the pilot scheme will take place, starting in April 1997 for three years. The areas will be selected by early October 1996. Likely services identified are: a survey of local childcare services, an information pack giving advice to lone parents about how they can be better off in work, training case-workers who will offer help to lone parents moving into work, mentoring those who do find work, and possibly brokering childcare provision. Other services may be identified later.

5. Expressions of interest in providing any or all of these services in the selected areas should be received by 2 September.

6. All service providers who respond to this notice by 2 September will be sent an Outline Scope of Work giving further information, and a questionnaire. Replies will be required by 9 September following which an invitation to tender may be issued. A decision about the award of contracts will be made by mid-November. The Department reserves the right not to award any contracts in pursuit of this requirement.

INNOVATIVE SCHEMES

7. Proposals for implementation anywhere in Great Britain which address problems of reducing benefit dependency among lone parents. The Department is interested in receiving innovative proposals for single or multi-year projects which address in a variety of ways the barriers which lone parents may encounter in seeking and maintaining work. Projects which can demonstrate their quality by securing co-sponsorship funding from other sources will be particularly welcomed. The Departments wish to support a variety of initiatives within the finance available. Financing is available in the current financial year.

8. All expressions of interest in the above should be received by 26 August.

9. All service providers who respond to this notice by 26 August will be sent an Outline Scope of Work giving further information. Proposals should be submitted by 13 September. A decision about the award of contracts will be made by early October.

10. The Department reserves the right not to award any contracts in pursuit of this requirement.

11. Please send expressions of interest or proposals to: Lesley Crafer, FS2, Department of Social Security, 9th Floor, The Adelphi, 1-11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT



Witness to the persecution

THEATRE
*Portrait of a Woman/
All Over Lovely*
Traverse, Edinburgh

The Traverse may not be celebrating its own half-century until 2013, and it may still be officially categorised as a Fringe theatre. But for more years than I dare remember it has been my first and favourite port of call on my annual odyssey through Auld Reekie. And what could be more apposite than yet another premiere there by Communicado, the Edinburgh company that produced a refreshingly brash *Cyrano de Bergerac* in 1992 and has never since been found wanting in imagination and energy?

This year Communicado is bringing the same strengths to Michel Vinaver's *Portrait of a Woman*, yet the effect is not especially exciting or, I fear, moving. With the help of a few desks, chairs and performers, Gerry Mulgrew's production communicates the feel of one of those French murder trials in which Maitre this and Maitre that circle the accused, lunging and snapping like dogs baiting a bear. But the case that is being recreated might have been chosen, and indeed probably was chosen, in order to tantalise and frustrate us.

Certainly, the defendant seems as inscrutable as the sort of woman who drifts through plays by Marguerite Duras. Invisibly throbbing and inwardly ululating. She is Sophie Auzanneau, a character based on a medical student convicted in 1951 of shooting the young lover who had begged her to marry him and whom she had repeatedly refused. In

tale, this woman turned stalker and murderer when he finally took the hint and found himself another fiancée. It was clear that she was a pretty disturbed person and had some reason to be so: brothers who died violently, cold parents, unsuitable lovers. She gave one witness the impression that she was "struggling against something inside that's breaking her up" and, if Vinaver is to be believed, she said something very curious about her victim: "I didn't love him enough to watch him walk off with someone else".

But Vinaver seems less interested in the nature of her psychopathology than in the failure of anyone or anything, least of all the legal system, to recognise its existence. Hostile attorneys describe her as a monster, a schemer and, in defiance of all logic, a fortune-hunter. Her recurrent suicide attempts are dismissed as artful dodges, and the fact that she had an unpatriotic affair with a German military doctor is pointedly mentioned. With so much hectoring from the judges and salacious giggling from the public gallery,

weirdly lachrymose pleas for understanding come to nothing.

Mulgrew's staging is, as usual, deft and clever. Sandy Neilson, for instance, transforms himself from Sophie's wintry father to her benign German lover simply by donning a white coat in mid-flow. Time swirls this way and that, so that Veronica Lee's quietly dignified Sophie can answer her judges while she is flirting with Joel Strachan as her hapless, nerdy victim, or his macho friends can advise him to give her a good beating while her attorney takes aim at the jury's ducts. But does Mulgrew's cast end by telling us much more than that human complexity is seldom acknowledged in the judicial cockpit? I don't think so.

Nor does Claire Dowie's *All Over Lovely*, which I saw earlier at the same address, generate as much light and fun as it should. The author and Peta Lily play cousins and former lovers who have tried and failed to find meaning in, respectively, organic farming and principled poverty, and business success and money. Something is being said about late-feminist disillusionment, something about the love that lies behind jealousy and anger, but the writing is hardly searching enough to make it worth unravelling. Still, I will be returning to the Traverse as the week progresses in the hope that this year it is not withholding its bounty, just postponing it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

CHOICE 1

Russia's newest orchestra brings Shostakovich to Edinburgh

VENUE: Tonight at the Usher Hall

CHOICE 2

while Miranda Richardson stars in Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Lyceum, Edinburgh

THE TIMES ARTS

CHOICE 3

Paul Nicholas opens in *The Mysterious Mr Love*

VENUE: Tonight at the Thorndike, Leatherhead

JAZZ

Joshua Redman proves to be one of the stars of the ambitiously expanded festival in Brecon

DAVID REDFERN

EDINBURGH

After making triumphant appearances at both the Proms in London and the Edinburgh Festival, the Russian National Orchestra travels to the International Festival to give the first of two concerts (today and tomorrow, Usher Hall, 8pm). Michael Tilson Thomas conducts two separate programmes, which include works by Haydn, Shostakovich and Tchaikovsky. In the Queen's Hall (11am), limited seats remain for Concerto Italiano's performance of Monteverdi's *Madrigals* (Edinburgh Playhouse, today, 7.30pm). The company's theatrical power and technical virtuosity is complemented by the stylish and humorous choreography of its artistic director, John Kander. Performances this evening and tomorrow feature the British premiere of a new work by Kander, the tragic *Bella Figura* and his seminal *Symphony of Pines*. The Royal Lyceum is the venue for a rare stage appearance by Miranda Richardson in the English language premiere of Robert Wilson's production of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* (today-Aug 21, except Sun, 7.30pm). Although the entire cast has already sold out, there is a slim chance of return. Festival box office (0131-225 5766 for tickets and information).

BURDY: William Whiston's best-selling novel where a schoolboy longs for freedom, oddly filmed but now adapted for the stage by Naomi Wallace. Kevin Knight directs Tam Williams and Adam Garcia. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Harrogate, W6 (0141 741 231). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, 4.30pm. Until Aug 17.

THE DECISIONER: A collection from Edoardo de Soto's treasure-house of early tales, some happy, some deadly, mostly acted by Nick Ward's young cast. Gate, 11, Pentlands Road, W11 (0171-223 0088). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Aug 17.

DIAL "M" FOR MURDER: Peter Davidson and Catherine Rabert in Frederick Knott's classically ingenious whod, dating from the days before the all-day phone number. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 3070). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Sat 8.15pm. Mats, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

HEDDA GABLER: Alexandra Owen's acclaimed performance in Stephen Unwin's production of English Touring Theatre. Deodar Warehouse, Eastern Street, WC2 (0171-389 1232). Mon-Sat, 8pm. Mats, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. Until Aug 31.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Peter Hall's acclaimed Haymarket production, with David Frier, David Rintoul, Nicky Henson, Kim Thomson, George Winters and John McCallum. Old Vic, Waterloo Rd, SE1 (0171-352 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

NEW RELEASES: AUGUST (PG). Aired from the Isle of Man, a comedy, directed by, and starring, Anthony Hopkins. With Leslie Phillips. Channel 4 (0171-389 1232). (R) (0171-389 1232) (R) (0171-389 1232).

THE SECRET OF DOOM (PG): Aired from the Isle of Man, a comedy, directed by, and starring, Anthony Hopkins. With Leslie Phillips. Channel 4 (0171-389 1232). (R) (0171-389 1232) (R) (0171-389 1232).

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

Monteverdi (St John's Church, today 8pm, tomorrow 1pm, Thurs 3pm). Over in the Assembly Rooms, the Georgian Film Actor's Studio makes a welcome return with a dazzling production of *King Lear* (today, Thurs-Sat, 2pm). At 11.45pm, the Gleditsys, a band whose lively sets usually continue well into the early hours, appear on stage at the Gilded Ballroom (today-Aug 28).

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, return only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

MARTIN GUERRE: The latest in the series of plays by the French playwright, now at the Royal National Theatre. Royal National Theatre, St John's Street, WC2 (0171-447 5400). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

PASSION: An unconvincing musical from South Africa, but with a strong cast. Lyric Theatre, King Street, Harrogate, W6 (0141 741 231). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat, 4.30pm. Until Aug 17.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Secret stunner:
the British
Museum reveals
the glories of
its 19th-century
French drawings



■ VISUAL ART 2

... and also
pays homage to
the work of the
Huguenot ivory
carver David
Le Marchand

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ PROMS 1

Paul Daniel
conducts the
National Youth
Orchestra in a
superb account
of *Amériques*



■ PROMS 2

... and the
many sides of
Igor Stravinsky
are featured
in a series of
Albert Hall events

Isabel Carlisle on the fine but finite store of sketches and prints on show at the British Museum; plus other shows

Back to the drawing hoard

The British Museum's department of prints and drawings may not be known for its collection of French 19th-century works. Now they are on display, however, it is clear that there are some stunner, both among the salon painters and the Impressionist and Post-Impressionist drawings and watercolours.

The range is impressive. Even with a meagre purchase budget, it has been possible in the past decade to add quite a number of relatively inexpensive figure and landscape drawings by the more academic salon artists, such as Boulangier and Lehmann, who were celebrated in their day for their decorative schemes for buildings but are now hardly known. The real quality was injected in 1965 with a bequest from César Mange de Hauke, a dealer who was inspired to work in prints and drawings after visiting the BM print room as a schoolboy.

Earliest in the de Hauke bequest (around 1810) is a Prud'hon black chalk drawing of a nude woman standing. The muscles of the torso and arms are beautifully modelled with fine hatching in a technique that could have been done in silverpoint by a Renaissance artist.

Delacroix's chalk drawing of a seated Arab, probably made on his second visit to Tangiers in 1832, shows a bearded figure in profile swathed in the folds of a magnificently striped burnous — the combination of exotic drapery and features that kindled Delacroix's enthusiasm for the Orient.

The Apotheosis of Delacroix by Cézanne is one of only two surviving studies for a painting that was never completed but which, to Cézanne, had immense significance because of the admiration that he felt for Delacroix. Also fascinating for the insights that they offer into the artistic process are two black conté crayon studies for *La Grande Jatte*, one of Seurat's largest and most

popular oil paintings, which now hangs in the Art Institute in Chicago. One is a study of the landscape with the figures removed — an exercise in establishing the proportions of the setting. The other, in Seurat's characteristic smoky style, is of the two strolling figures on the right — a man with a top hat and a woman with a parasol.

There are too many good drawings to mention here, but those by Degas and Redon are exceptional. Degas' *Dancers practising at the Bar* in grey oil paint thinned with

6 The £925,000 shared by all the museum's departments is clearly not enough to sustain life

turpentine on viridian paper is dated 1876-77 but has much of the arresting combination of colours and the vigour of his later pastels. With one dancer seen from the side and one from the back, the tatus left unfilled, and only parts of their bodies worked up in grey and white oil paint, this is clearly a quick sketch, but with the presence of a finished work.

Odilon Redon's *La Cellule d'Or* is one of his most celebrated works, partly because the woman's face in deep blue seen in profile against a gold ground is such a powerful, haunting image. When shown at Durand-Ruel's Redon retrospective in 1894, its modernity caused it to be singled out by Tolstoy for attack in his polemical treatise *What is Art?* Alongside this show run two

smaller exhibitions. That on the grotesque explores the fantastic designs produced by printmakers for the decorative arts. This style, based on the decorative figures and shapes in Roman wall paintings, found its full expression during the Baroque and Rococo periods.

The exhibition on David Le Marchand, the Huguenot ivory carver from Dieppe, is a treasure house of little portraits carved in the round, or in relief, of characters from the reigns of Queen Anne and King George I. Not much is known about this artist, who is first recorded in Edinburgh in 1696, a lacuna which this show attempts to fill. However, with all his skill at drapery, the curls of wigs, and facial expressions, we are left wondering what purpose these little sculptures had and how they were displayed.

With the British Museum's purchase grant standing at £925,000 this year (down from £1,425,000 in 1995 because of a reduction in government funding), it is hard to see how the prints and drawings collection could possibly continue to add to its holdings except through gifts and the occasional lottery handout (one drawing, by Marco Zappalà, was bought with lottery funds and money from the National Art Collections Fund last year).

Collections that cannot grow are effectively dead: the £925,000 shared among all the departments of the museum is clearly not enough to sustain life in this great national institution and allow it to grow in range and depth. Let the Treasury and the National Heritage Memorial Fund, from which lottery money for the arts is handed out, take note.

19th-century French Drawings from the British Museum; The Grotesque: Ornamental Prints from the British Museum; David Le Marchand (1674-1726) "an ingenious man for carving in ivory" all run until September 15 in the Prints and Drawings galleries of the British Museum (0171-636 1555)



Nude woman standing by Pierre Paul Prud'hon: black chalk heightened with white on grey paper

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE American artist James Turrell returns to London with an installation at Michael Hue Williams. After passing through a high, sci-fi-style entrance, the visitor is surrounded by a misty, diffuse light in which it is almost impossible to focus. After a time, however, a general state of confusion is replaced by tangible vision, as a large rectangle of blue light emerges. It has taken so long to arrive that the temptation to wait for more is strong. But the blue continues to glow only slightly, an ungraspable space lacking volume or weight. It becomes clear that the art here lies simply in a trick of the light. Michael Hue Williams Fine Art, 21 Cork Street, London W1 (0171-434 1318) until Sept 27

TWO paintings made using a computer-imaging process sit opposite each other while a selection of apparently random single letters hangs on the other wall. This show, by the young American artist Jack Pierson, gives the viewer few clues. A sunny day has been captured in fine detail in dots on the canvas surface. Viewed through layers of reflective glass, the image of boats bobbing in a peaceful East Coast harbour seems to provide a sense of escape yet remains ultimately trapped within its own artifice. Lightbulbs in the painting opposite build up a relentless kaleidoscope. White Cube, 44 Duke Street, London SW1 (0171-930 5373) continues until Sept 7

SACHA CRADDOCK

Igor celebrated, and accused

Stravinsky Day at the Proms — a three-part extravaganza marking the 25th anniversary of the composer's death — opened with an in-the-round staging of *The Soldier's Tale* that used the space of the Albert Hall in a remarkably innovative way. The central arena was converted into a stage on two levels, while the Prommers sat in the orchestral seats and in the corresponding area at the opposite end.

Members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet, with Chi Cao as the Soldier, enacted the drama in Oliver Hindle's fluent, expressive choreography. Paul Griffiths's witty, aptly colloquial translation was delivered by Simon Russell Beale in a narration that eschewed rhetoric and high-contrast dramatic inflection, creating its effect with subtle switches of vocal register and precision timing. The Birmingham Contemporary Music Group (Lyn Fletcher a virtuoso fiddler) provided a taut commentary under Daniel Harding — who, incidentally, becomes the youngest conductor ever to appear at the Proms.

Rhetoric was abandoned rather less convincingly by the two male narrators, Michael Berkeley and Bernard Jacobson, in *The Flood* (receiving its Proms premiere), where the tongue-in-cheek hum-

BEC PROMS

Stravinsky Day
Albert Hall/Radio 3

our of the text needs to be projected with a touch of apocalyptic hyperbole. Mary King as Noah's Wife rose to the challenge, as did Robert Tear, David Wilson-Johnson and Stephen Richardson in the singing roles. Members of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Oliver Knussen took their many tricky solos with aplomb, and the New London Chamber Choir also distinguished itself, not least in the "Igorian chant" (to borrow the composer's joke) of the Te Deum.

Under its director James Wood, the choir also gave polished performances of the *Tres Sacrae Cantiones* (Stravinsky's arrangement of three sacred madrigals by Gesualdo) and of the *Monumentum pro Gesualdo di Venosa ad CD annum*, a further tribute to the Neapolitan master.

The Fairy's Kiss, Stravinsky's tribute to a later master, Tchaikovsky, received a suitably light-footed performance. Admittedly this is Tchaikovskyian sentiment filtered through the Stravinskian intellect,

but for vibrant contrasts of tonal colour or affectionate sweeps of phrase one listened in vain.

The third concert began with another Proms premiere, the Cantata of 1952. As Richard Taruskin pointed out, in his thought-provoking inaugural BBC Proms Lecture the previous day, the Cantata contains a setting of an anti-Semitic verse a few years after the Holocaust. The moral question should be raised whenever the work is performed, Taruskin argued. Indeed, it is all too easy to overlook it, especially when the piece is done with the elegance brought to it by the Taverner Choir under Andrew Parrott (Teresa Shaw and Neil Jenkins the soloists).

Those who lasted the marathon were rewarded with the most exhilarating performance of the day when Parrott conducted the Birmingham ensemble again in the Concerto for Piano and Wind Instruments. The soloist was Wayne Marshall, scintillating in his virtuosity, but always inspirational rather than merely mechanistic. His inventiveness split over into a breathtaking improvisation on themes of Stravinsky by way of an encore.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Swing strong

NYOGB/Daniel
Albert Hall/Radio 3

PERHAPS only the ebullience of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain could so successfully take the measure of Varèse's *Amériques*, which on Saturday finally reached the Proms 75 years after it was composed. Celebrating "New Worlds on Earth, in the Sky, or in the minds of men," it no longer sounds as shocking as it may once have done. But its explosive ideas bristle with difficulties.

Paul Daniel conducted his massed forces — nearly 160 teenagers — with secure regard for the musical impetus behind what has often been called a piece of sound-sculpture. It presents iconoclastic ideas typical of their time in different lights. Stravinsky, and sometimes Debussy, are in there somewhere, but refracted through Varèse's

have followed than a handful of Gershwin songs sung by Sally Burgess, who scaled her lovely operatic mezzo to more modest dimensions while illuminating Ira Gershwin's words with telling inflections. But in standards like the wistful *Someone to Watch Over Me* and the little-heard *Lorelei*, with her "most immoral eye", she needed a microphone to battle new orchestrations that made Gershwin sound unduly clotted.

Demands for an encore brought a repetition of *Slap That Bass*, with the orchestra's principal player proving himself as good a bass-slayer as jazz legends like Ray Brown. An American in Paris was then dispatched with the requisite swing even from the oversized orchestra, although Gershwin is surely entitled to as much "authenticity" as, say, Handel.

In Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* Daniel was concerned to give due clarity to the instrumental character. To this end he was inclined to make it slow and cautious from the start. Even when assured of his young players' command it remained a far from dramatic experience.

Startling creations

St James Players/
Bolton
Albert Hall/Radio 3

CREATION is one of the themes of this year's Proms, and the Creation itself was celebrated in a late-night concert by the St James's Baroque Players and Singers under Ivor Bolton. Barry Millington writes. Jean-Féry Rebel's Representation of Chaos from *Les Eléments* has one of the most striking openings in 18th-century music: a compression of all the notes of the octave into one chord. Bolton's realisation registered the anarchic effect without sensationalising it.

Rameau's overture to *Zéfiris* treats a similar theme less iconoclastically. Yet the muffled drum strokes and abrupt key changes are arresting enough, especially when heard with the clarity afforded by period instruments. Graham Sadler's edition allowed

colours as never before, since the composer was obliged, by public taste, to substitute a more anodyne version for his original. We heard a remarkably original tonal palette, dominated by the *petites flûtes* (transverse Baroque piccolos, played admirably by Rachel Brown and Marion Moonen). Rameau's grand motet *In convertendo* recalls the composer's secular style, though there is more counterpoint than in his operas. Nowhere is this deployed better than in the finale, dispatched exhilaratingly by the St James's Singers and soloists. A mention is due for Guillemette Laurens and chorus member Helen Groves, who jointly stepped into the breach to take over from an indisposed Claron McFadden.

Laurens was also outstanding in Charpentier's *Te Deum*, given by an orchestra that included only one trumpet (the fine Mark Bennett), instead of the usual three or more. That is not the only difference that would have struck addicts of Eurovision. Bolton brought a dancing rhythm to the Prelude and several other sections — a subtler grandeur, perhaps, than the ceremonial with which the piece is often

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Leon Kossoff *Christ Church, Summer Afternoon 1994*

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At partner level there has been some change in the way that partnership packages are structured. The balance between basic salary and commission for work introduced is beginning to tilt in favour of higher basic salary and lower commission. Both firms and candidates will benefit from this. The subtle process of integrating a lateral hire into a team will be made easier. There will be less incentive for incoming partners to spend all their time servicing their own clients rather than developing the practice as a whole in conjunction with their new colleagues.

David Woolston

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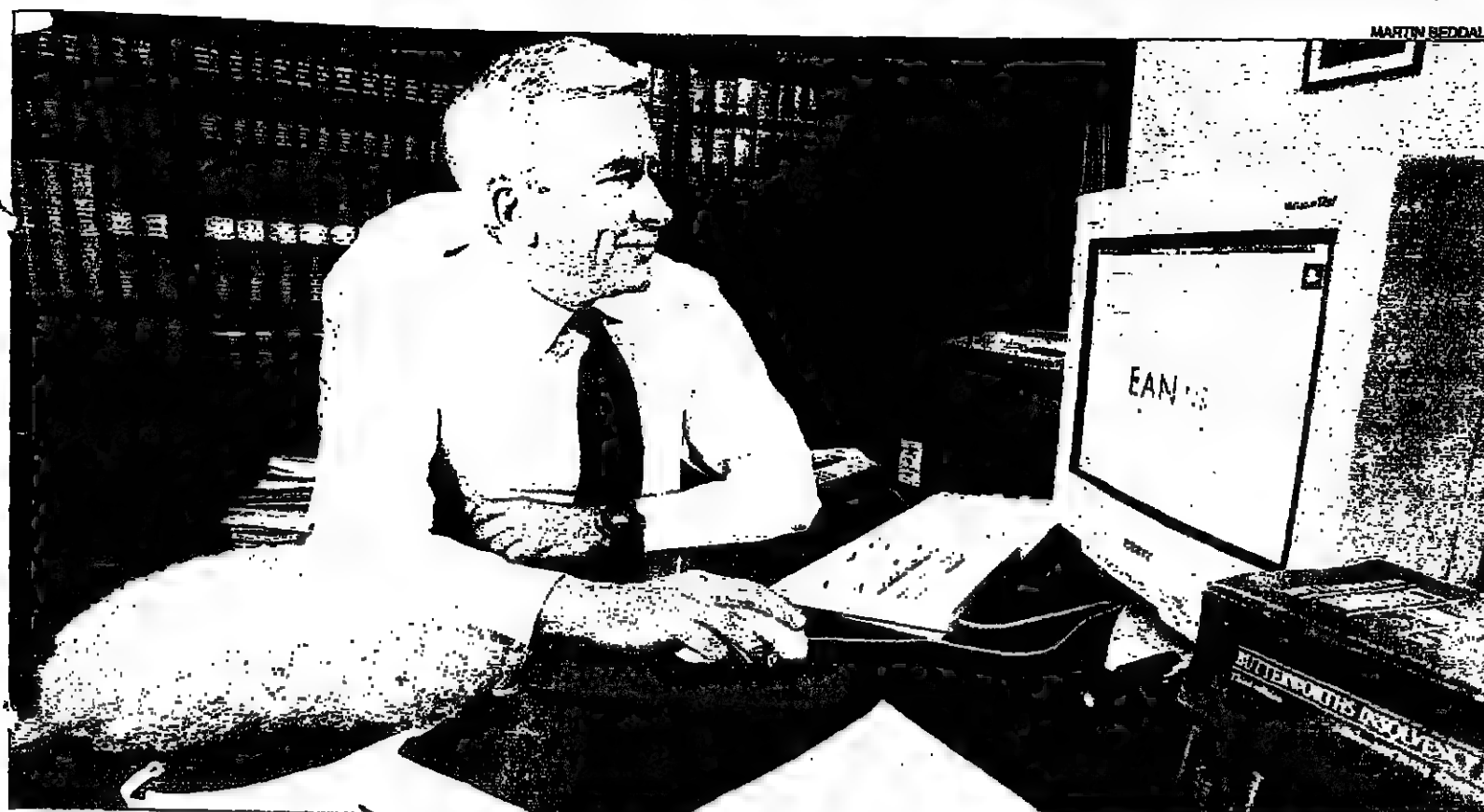
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JP 11/20/50

LAW

The legal system is switching on to information technology, says Frances Gibb



Lord Justice Saville with wig, mouse and screen in his chambers at the Royal Courts of Justice. More than 300 judges now have computers

Judges surf into court

If Lord Woolf has his way, the legal system is poised for a technological revolution. At the heart of his plans for a shake-up in civil justice is the wholesale computerisation of the civil courts. Lord Woolf's idea that judges should become trial managers, controlling the pace of cases and setting timetables, will go nowhere, he believes, without underpinning by the latest technology.

This, with the training of judges, is a first priority and "absolutely crucial". He says: "The most important thing is to get the structure ready for the change behind the scenes. You have to get the judiciary organised and trained, and you have to have the technology in place. This is right at the forefront of the reforms."

Progress is not as swift as he would like. But there are clear signs of the legal profession abandoning its quill-and-pen image. Technology is now a vital tool used not only for running chambers and law firms but also increasingly by judges and lawyers themselves. It is used for research (for legal databases) and for drafting opinions, documents and contracts. Judges have also entered the computer age. More than 300 of them have been supplied with personal computers by the Lord Chancellor's Department.

Some take notes on screen in court; others write in their judgments. Lawyers have also hit the Internet. Some 50 law firms and about one dozen barristers or their chambers now have noticeboards advertising

their services on the net: one law firm, Fiddler & Pepper, in Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, has launched a conveyancing service there. The housebuyer or seller fills out a form on the firm's web site, the firm responds with a quotation as to charges and if it is acceptable, the transaction can proceed via e-mail. Another firm, Schilling & Lom, has used e-mail to serve an injunction. Judges, too, are linked via their own communications network, Felix, and can chat about rulings.

Yet a gap remains between what individual judges and lawyers are doing and the situation in the courts. The Court Service, the agency which runs the courts in England and Wales, is putting in place a Private Finance Initiative of £50 to 60 million to computerise the civil courts. Bids are in but the contract has not yet been awarded.

Lord Woolf has expressed concern that the venture must be monitored, with strict safeguards, or else "policy, strategy and control of future developments" could be lost to a third-party private sector supplier. He accepts, however, that the venture also provides an "unparalleled opportunity" to create an "IT infrastructure for the court system".

Meanwhile, the courtroom of the future is taking off on other fronts. Smith Bernal, the court reporting firm, has already had huge success with its LiveNote instant computer transmission system. The firm won the official court reporting contract from the Lord Chancellor's Department to

cover the Court of Appeal and Central Criminal Court for three years from April this year. Its LiveNote system has been used in several big trials here and abroad, including those of the Maxwell brothers and O.J. Simpson.

The system is a software program that provides instant transmission of the court proceedings on a screen within two seconds of the words being spoken. Judges and lawyers can mark, annotate and search the evidence for key words and obtain print-outs of sections and full transcripts of the day's proceedings. The system has won the approval of judges such as Lord Justice Phillips (the Maxwell trial judge) and Lord Justice Brooke, as well as others who have used it in complex fraud trials. The Serious Fraud Office is in favour.

The LiveNote system could just be the start, however. Smith Bernal has broken new ground with a video system which allows judges and lawyers to view the witness on the screen, alongside the text of the spoken evidence. The advantage is that any part of a witness's evidence may be frozen and replayed later. So the jury can be reminded of what was said and how.

The system would mean allowing video cameras into courts, but in England and Wales cameras are banned. Graham Smith, managing director of Smith Bernal, says: "Some see this as one step towards allowing TV into court. We don't agree. Our

view is that to have the record of court proceedings in video form as well as text form is much more informative and valuable to the trial parties and the judge."

Such a video recording, made via a fixed camera, is digitised so it can be stored on a computer on either hard disc or CD and easily retrieved. "It is a much more powerful medium for reminding juries of the key passages," Mr Smith says. It could also prove of benefit in appeals where judges have sometimes had to deal with trial transcripts years old.

Johnnie Cochran, O.J. Simpson's lawyer, agrees. He says: "It's the cutting edge. Any trial lawyer wants to be at the forefront of any new technology... we already have used the LiveNote, and to have the video as well adds a new and better dimension. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words and if I want to demonstrate the credibility of a witness, this would be excellent."

The credibility of witnesses was at the heart of the O.J. Simpson trial and Cochran says he would have loved to have been able to recall the moment when Simpson tried to pull on the gloves he allegedly used in his wife's murder.

The first step is likely to be its use in pre-trial hearings in the United States. Some judges in England are also positive. But they worry that counsel may take videos out of context in closing addresses, or that images of the judge's demeanour could be used as

the basis of spurious appeals. Smith Bernal hopes that the Lord Chancellor's Department will agree to a trial period.

Lord Woolf's report will have given them a boost. His vision goes far wider than computerising court administration: he sees people using court systems to track cases; obtaining information from computer kiosks; for more hearings via telephone, and video conferencing. He envisages video-recording and viewing facilities in trial centres to help with the presentation of expert evidence and prerecorded statements.

The big question is whether adequate funds will be forthcoming from the Treasury. But as Lord Woolf puts it, investment in appropriate technology is "fundamental to the future of our civil justice system" because it is likely to be "a catalyst for future change".

Critical lesson of the Pentagon Papers

In English law, "national security is the exclusive responsibility of the executive", as Lord Donaldson, then Master of the Rolls, stated on behalf of the Court of Appeal in 1991. The difficulties created and the interests served by judicial consideration of government claims about the security of the nation are examined in an important new book, *The Day the Presses Stopped: A History of the Pentagon Papers Case*, by David Rudenstein.

In 1971, *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* each obtained a copy of large parts of the top-secret Pentagon Papers, a 7,000-page history (including original documents) of the United States' involvement in Vietnam from the 1940s to the late 1960s prepared by the Pentagon for its own purposes. The newspapers began to publish extracts, revealing how the American Government had misled the public about the purpose of the nation's involvement in South-East Asia, and its likely duration and cost (in both financial and human terms). The Government sought an injunction claiming that the publication of these, and further extracts, would do irreparable harm to national security, especially when American troops were still fighting the Vietnam War.

The New York Times published the first extracts on June 12, 1971. After lower courts had granted interim orders restraining publication while the legal issues were considered, the Supreme Court decided on June 30 (by six votes to three) to deny the Government's claim for further injunctions. Of the six judges in the majority, two held that the First Amendment

volumes to his chambers and left them unguarded. The US Attorney sensibly asked his government clients which parts of the study (much of which was anodyne or already in the public domain) were sensitive and why, so he could address argument on this subject, and was told, to his astonishment, that this "information is classified".

Despite the competition from Daniel Ellsberg (the source of the leak), Benjamin Bradlee (Executive Editor of *The Washington Post*), and others, the central character in this extraordinary drama was President Richard Nixon. He was goaded into litigation by his National Security Adviser, Henry Kissinger, telling him that he would otherwise appear a "weakling". The Pentagon Papers largely concerned policies of Nixon's Democratic predecessors, and the President told his staff that he wanted someone more "effective" than Bob Dole (then Republican Party chairman) to use extracts to attack the administrations of

Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. At one stage, Nixon, a lawyer, contemplated arguing the case himself before the Supreme Court "to indicate the importance" of the issues.

He was persuaded to leave the advocacy to his Solicitor-General, Erwin Griswold. Rudenstein does not include Griswold's story that, after the judgment, he was invited to a lunch at the White House. While shaking hands in the receiving line, he commented to the President that "we did not do so well in the Pentagon Papers case", whereupon Nixon "froze, and seemed to glare, saying nothing". Griswold quickly moved on.

As Professor Rudenstein explains, the Pentagon Papers case was a defining event in modern American politics. While victory in court conferred prestige and self-confidence on *The Washington Post*, President Nixon decided that if he could not protect himself from his "enemies" by legal means, he would resort to other, less scrupulous methods. These paths merged at Watergate. Publication of the Pentagon Papers exacerbated the national trauma of involvement in Vietnam, and confirmed the vital role of the press in exposing official incompetence and deceit.

There is no evidence that publication of the Pentagon Papers did in fact have any adverse effect on national security. The important lesson of the case is that, as elsewhere, unless judges apply their critical faculties, governments will make overboard claims that deny fundamental rights to citizens.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.
● *The Day the Presses Stopped* (University of California Press, \$34.95)



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Good Bar companion

A NEW edition of *The Havers' Companion to the Bar*, which broke new ground when first published in 1991 because barristers resented being asked to publicise personal details and charges, has just come out. Some things change: most barristers are now falling over themselves to give out information. Others don't: fees still remain a "no-go" area for many.

Robert Seabrook, QC, former Bar chairman, who writes the foreword, says: "There was initial hostility to the directory but most barristers now realise that to compete in the modern world, this kind of information is required." For details telephone: 01304 813727.

Mackay's honour

IN a move which will only confirm the opinions of hard-right Tory critics of Lord Mackay of Clashfern's divorce reforms, the Lord Chancellor has been hailed as a great

INNS AND OUTS



Lord Mackay: reformer

reformer and a man of "deep humanity and liberalism" by Leicester University, which has made him an honorary doctor of law.

During the ceremony, university orator Dr Bob Borthwick said that the Lord Chancellor's efforts to make the legal system more competitive and less intimidating for ordinary citizens reflected "the deep humanity and liberalism

of this most distinguished and open-minded lawyer". The Indian High Commissioner, Dr Laxmi Singhvi, also received an honorary degree.

Able guides

GUIDES to help businesses to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act have been produced by disability consultancy Churchill & Friend, of Alton, Hampshire. One guide explains the law on employing disabled people and the other advises businesses how they can avoid discriminating against disabled customers. Churchill & Friend quotes an American survey showing that on average every dollar spent on compliance with disability laws brought a \$27.48 benefit. For details telephone 01420 544494.

Cop a fee

THE long arm of the law extends into Wolverhampton, the Plymouth law firm. It has no

fewer than four former police officers on its fee-earning staff, including senior partner David Gabbitts. Relations between police and solicitors can often be frosty, but, unsurprisingly, the firm reports an excellent understanding between it and the local police force, which, it says, is increasingly using the firm for advice and representation.

The other former policemen in the firm are Dennis Chamberlain, an expert in police disciplinary procedures, former CID officer Davy Jones, who now advises rather than arrests suspects, and Dick Brown, who has helped many a police officer to move house.

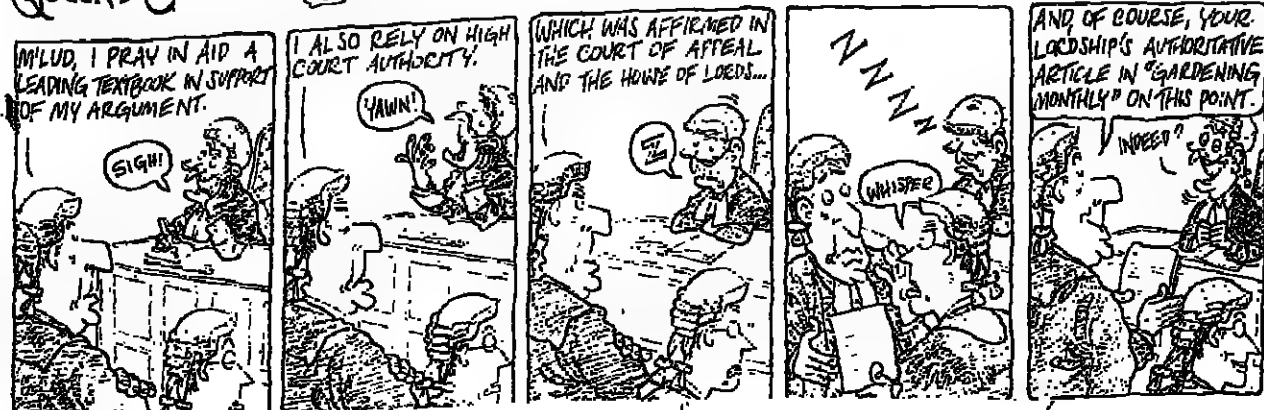
Double vision

LAW firms are always poaching up-and-coming solicitors from their rivals. But Manchester firm Lace Mawer has come up with two for the price of one. Two young family law practitioners, Caroline Bor and Sally Merry, who were operating a job share at neighbouring firm Vaudreys, will continue their arrangement at Lace Mawer.

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PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES FOR PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI) PROJECTS FOR THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence requires a range of legal services as part of its continued implementation of the Government's Private Finance Initiative, to provide advice to MOD project teams on various legal aspects of PFI procurement.

Responses are requested from law practices who have experience advising purchasers of services in the following project areas:

Construction:

Information Technology;

Intellectual Property Rights;

Facilities Management;

Financing and risk transfer arrangements for a variety of assets, including vehicles, ships and aircraft;

Employment Law

Prospective Service Providers must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of public sector procurement law. Experience of advising on PFI projects and experience in working for public sector clients is preferred, and a clear understanding of the Initiative must be demonstrated.

It is anticipated that a number of framework arrangements will be awarded to ensure that there is an adequate choice of Service Providers available to cover the MOD's likely requirements.

Successful firms will be appointed under competitive tendering arrangements.

Firms wishing to express an interest in this requirement are invited to complete an expression of interest questionnaire which may be obtained from:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF CONTRACTS/CENTRAL PURCHASING
PFI PROJECTS
ROOM 202, WELLESLEY HOUSE
103-109 WATERLOO STREET
GLASGOW
G2 7BN
Telephone: 0141 224 8373
Fax: 0141 224 8350

ALL EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRES MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS BY 16.30 HOURS ON 11 SEPTEMBER 1996.

POLAND

Legal Adviser

Banking and Enterprise Debt Restructuring

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A project was established at the start of the year to assist one of the large Polish specialist state owned banks in improving its loan recovery function. A team of four expatriate banking advisers and five local staff reports in to the Team Leader. A legal professional is now being sought to join the team as Legal Adviser.

Your role will be to review the bank's existing systems for documenting the range of credit and restructuring related transactions and assist the implementation of appropriate changes, which may include developing precedents for credit/restructuring/security and sale-purchase agreements. You will also play an integral part in Case Teams, providing proactive advice to the banking advisers on the range of workout issues from credit agreements to privatisation of state owned enterprises.

Qualifications of the successful candidate should include a law degree/post graduate conversion, and preferably a minimum three years' post qualification experience, with twelve months' exposure to western banking and commercial law and two years' experience in Poland.

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Those interested should write as soon as possible, enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae to arrive before the closing date of 30 August 1996 to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH360/AO/F/T, Overseas Development Administration, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, tel 01355 843626.

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JPM 150

Who can and can't sue for libel? Robin Lewis on how privatisation may change things in future



Mr Justice French, who halted a libel action by British Coal against the National Union of Mineworkers, and, right, Lamb and Botham, who lost their recent libel case



The recent Ian Botham v Imran Khan libel match reminded everyone that libel actions are an option only for the rich. But there are an option only for the rich. But there are an option only for the rich. But there are an option only for the rich.

The question of whether public bodies have a right to do so came up again at the end of June, when Mr Justice French halted the libel action which British Coal (formerly the National Coal Board) had brought against the National Union of Mineworkers.

The story goes as far back as early 1992, when British Coal's pension fund trustees voted, in the teeth of NUM opposition, not to pay employer contributions into the Mineworkers Pension Scheme. In the long run, this would have meant British Coal making no payments for a total of 11 years, saving the company more than £750 million.

Throughout this period, working miners would have continued to pay employee contributions into the fund. Theft and robbery were among the epithets used in an article in the *Yorkshire Miner* to describe this decision. British Coal sued, claiming that the company had been accused of dishonesty; not so, countered the union; the language used was no more than fair comment.

The action took an unusually scenic route to reach its trial. British Coal's witnesses admitted that between October 1992 and April 1995, the company took no steps to move the case forward. Not

that British Coal was short of things to do: in the same period it disposed of all its pits and reduced its workforce from 59,000 (when the article was published) to 397 on the first day of the trial. It was, perhaps, these events which the judge had in mind when he commented that the case had "an element of unreality".

Fair comment apart, the union argued that British Coal does not have the capacity in law to sue for libel. It based the argument on a 1993 decision of the House of Lords. In that case, *The Sunday Times* had attacked the integrity of investment decisions made by Derbyshire County Council's Pension Fund. The council sued, as did its leader, David Bookbinder, and the businessman, Owen Oyston.

The newspaper paid damages to the two individuals, but argued that a local authority cannot sue for libel.

The House of Lords agreed. In a democratic society, it said, a government body has to be open to criticism, uninhibited by the "chilling effect" of the libel laws. Not only is there no social need

for such cases to be brought, said Lord Keith, but public interest demands that they should not be brought, because they "place an undesirable fetter on freedom of speech".

Derbyshire was an elected council and the Lords had in mind that it would, in time, answer to the electorate. Who else would be covered by the same reasoning?

You can say what you like about your NHS hospital, but not about the privatised wards

Lord Keith made clear that the judgment would apply to what he variously described as "organs of government", "any governmental body exercising governmental functions", and, most expansively, "a corporate public authority". The ruling would not apply to individuals in the public service if they were individually libelled.

How then did Mr Justice French apply this to British Coal? He had heard a great deal of evidence about the statutory framework which has governed the coal industry since 1946. He accepted — particularly in the light of the Divisional Court's overruling of Michael Heseltine's pit closure programme in 1992 — that the Government exercises close ministerial control over the industry, and that these factors together render British Coal a public authority of the type which Lord Keith had in mind.

It is easy to apply the Derbyshire principles to the traditional concept of government. A government department cannot sue, but a government minister can; Mr Bookbinder was entitled to damages as an individual; his council was not.

Nor is it difficult to think of bodies in the public sector before 1979, and to say that the National Coal Board, the Milk Marketing Board or the Post Office all carried out governmental functions and therefore fell within the Derbyshire principles.

Now move to the economy of

1996. A massive programme of privatisation and deregulation has created a network of quangos and semi-public bodies, which dwell on the cusp of the private and public sectors.

Some commercial companies carry out what used to be thought of as exclusively functions of government (running the prisons, selling the water, mining the coal); many organs of government work closely with or depend upon the private sector; while some government departments seem determined to privatise themselves out of existence.

Lord Keith ruled that freedom of speech demands that governmental bodies take public criticism without going to the libel court. Yet anomalies and ironies abound. The NUM could comment robustly on British Coal without fear of a libel action, but now that the English pits have been bought by RJB Mining, it may have to be more discreet.

You can say what you like about your local NHS hospital, but not about the wards whose services are run by limited companies. We must all hope in the long run that the Derbyshire approach prevails, and that the chilling effect of the libel laws on public debate of the public services does not turn out to be one of the unthought-of consequences of privatisation.

The author is a partner with Bindman & Partners, the London solicitors

Help yourself by helping others

Edward Fennell looks at mutual assistance between legal firms

There will be few senior partners in middle-ranking firms who will be relaxing on their holidays with a light heart. The big outfits in the City may have returned to prosperity but it is still tough for the smaller to medium-sized firms in the regions. Some of their most experienced lawyers will spend their time away agonising over how they can survive in the face of changes to legal aid and increasing competition over fees.

The loneliness of many law firms adds to their difficulties. As one senior partner put it "If you're in difficulties as a lawyer you don't tell other lawyers about it." One answer is to pool anxieties with like-minded peers who pose no threat. Peter Collier, the chairman of LawGroup UK, which has more than 80 members, says: "The partners of these firms may have good legal skills but their business management ability is limited."

A typical example concerns chargeable hours. Mr Collier says: "Some law firms get only 1,100 chargeable hours a year from their lawyers. We found that many of our members achieved up to 1,300 hours. The means of doing this were pinpointed and passed on to the rest of the group."

Mr Collier sees efficiency as being an essential ingredient for quality — and quality is clearly going to be the issue which will determine the survival of many firms. The cross-fertilisation of ideas and experiences may be one of the only ways of improving performance. The Solicitors Information Group (SIG), with nine firms in the South East and Midlands, is now gearing up for similar forms of mutual help, having just appointed Simon Bray, of Nelson's Practice Development, as management consultant.

Ian Condrington, senior partner of Sharnan & Trethewy, a

group member, says that network such as SIG enable the smaller firm to plug into wider experience. As well as having a consultant on European law, SIG enables members to advise each other on topics such as computerisation and financial control.

Mr Bray believes that this free and informal exchange of information should now be extended and systematised. "Unlike many groups which are concerned with marketing, SIG is solely interested in providing a relaxed exchange of information among firms which are not competing with each other."

For many medium-sized regional firms the real crunch comes in their ability to pass the quality thresholds being imposed on them by their clients. Chief among these is the Legal Aid Board. Unlike many lawyers, the members of LawGroup are positive about the LAB's approach to awarding franchises.

Peter Warner, LawGroup's senior practice consultant, says: "I am afraid that the Law Society has been left standing on the issue of quality in law firms. We shall continue to work closely with the Legal Aid Board to help to improve the quality standards of the profession." So maybe slackness elsewhere is allowing a minority of lawyers to surge ahead.

But the catch is that firms have to improve their performance to gain admission to mutual-help groups. Membership of SIG is by invitation only. LawGroup lays down tough entry requirements. After all, there is no point in opening the doors to firms who have nothing to contribute. Firms can improve by going for recognised measures such as the ISO 9000 quality award or Investors in People. Maybe those senior partners should bend their minds to that as they go off to the sun.

A sticky wicket for fair comment

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EDUCATION

Whatever this week's A-level results, don't despair. Hugh Thompson gives advice

Whether or not the A-level pass rate takes another leap as expected on Thursday, one thing is unfortunately easy to predict. The results will be bad news for many students, since research shows that about half of all the grades forecast by schools are over-optimistic.

In a survey of six subjects by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), it was found that 30 per cent of predictions were wrong by a factor of two or more grades.

The vagaries of this system have led the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to propose a twin-track system for the future, which would allow some students to choose to wait until they get their grades before they apply for courses. But the question that many will again ask this year is whether the odd C instead of a B will make that much difference when it comes to university entry.

The answer very much depends on both course and university. Vicky Forest is assistant registrar at Durham University. She says: "Such is our popularity that the vast percentage not only make the grades we ask for but exceed them. However, there are times when we do have a problem filling our quotas in certain subjects, and then two Bs and a C might do instead of three Bs, but we are not interested in straying too far from our specified standards."

The difficulties arising from students not making their grades and universities changing their entry requirements weeks before the courses start are confusing for the schools. It would be easier if university places were offered after A-level results were known.

Margaret Callum is head of the sixth form at South Hampstead High School for Girls in north London. She says: "We know that if Trinity, Cambridge, says three As to read law then it is three As or nothing. However, at most universities modern languages have been dropping at least two grades from their original offers."

"It is a totally chaotic system and very unfair. The universi-



Countdown to a university place: students at Woolwich College scan the list of A-level results to find their grades

ABC of how to make the grade

ties give out very mixed signals about what you should do if you just miss your grades. They say do not pester, but we have had girls who did and were told they had got the place because they showed such interest."

Sandy Tittershill is the deputy head at Blue Coat School, Liverpool, and deals with Ucas. He says: "There are the courses with entry requirements written in stone and there are many, especially at the newer universities, which are more flexible. Our experience is that all our students who want to go to university do go even if it means shopping around. My advice to those who do not get the grades for their first choice is

A FULL listing of degree courses available through clearing will appear in *The Times* next Monday. It follows a special education report this Thursday and begins a daily service of up-to-date course vacancies, which will run throughout the recruitment period.

keep trying, there is a place for you somewhere."

That is an optimistic view. Last year Ucas reported that 420,000 people tried for a university place and only 290,000 were successful. Of

the successful ones, 41,000 found their course through the clearing system, which caters largely for those who do not make the grades for their first choice course.

Applicants must remember that they are not the only ones trying for places at universities. In the sciences especially, universities can often find better qualified students from abroad if they have to.

At Aberdeen and Birmingham, universities there is a similar feeling of not wanting to dilute a "quality" market reputation by lowering entry standards. Aberdeen felt it was most likely to be flexible in agriculture and engineering, while Birmingham said that if the head teacher's report was

good the odd dropped grade in requirements for history or English might be acceptable.

New universities take a different line. Kingston felt that a B could become a C and still be acceptable for architecture, whereas for engineering and science courses two Cs could well be reduced to two Ds when it came to filling its last places.

Some universities also relax specified grades in certain subjects. Durham admits that if it asked for an ABC and the student got the A in the wrong subject, that could still be satisfactory, bearing in mind that the difference between grades can be as little as one or two marks.

The best advice for those disappointed by their results but determined to secure a university place is not to plan a holiday, but to reassess all options including retakes, a year off and clearing, with the help of *The Times* this Thursday and from next Monday, when full course-vacancy listings begin.

Can students afford to take a year out?

A cloud hangs over the prospect of taking a year off before university for students who want to travel, earn money or make A-levels. The skies are gloomy because of tuition "top-up" fees.

No British universities at present charge students directly for course tuition, apart from the private Buckingham University, where students pay £14,568 for their two-year degree.

However, vice-chancellors have threatened to introduce a £300 levy for all students starting in October 1997, unless higher education cuts imposed in last year's Budget are restored by the Chancellor this November.

There are also signs that some of the country's most popular institutions could be preparing their own fees from 1997, whatever happens in the Budget.

Students starting this year would be exempt from both these possibilities. So should that influence their decision on whether to take a year off, especially if their results are worse than expected when published on Thursday?

Taking a year off simply to travel has become less popular as university living costs increase, but many school-leavers still organise a combination of travel and work to gain extra funds for the lean years ahead. Those who have planned this carefully by applying for deferred entry are unlikely to find themselves charged a course fee in 1997. This is because universities are bound to consider not only legal but moral obligations towards their students and deferred-entry students have accepted their places on the basis of free tuition. The National Union of Students has pledged to help any

New course fees may force them to forget seeing the world before university, says David Charter



Student backpackers may face an expensive return

The LSE may need to charge students £850 a year to make up for government cuts

students to fight the sudden imposition of fees.

What about students considering a year off for retakes? Admissions officers always advise students to take up a place through clearing if they can, as retakes can often be disappointing.

The London School of Economics has discussed top-up fees in principle. It might need to charge £850 a year to make up for govern-

ment cuts. Patrick Wallace, assistant registrar at the LSE, says: "There has not been a decision made about fees. We are thinking about it, like a lot of other universities, because of the widespread feeling that we cannot continue to maintain quality of experience for students on the present level of government funding."

The LSE expects to make a clear statement on the likelihood of fees for 1997 as near as possible to the start of next year's application process, on September 1.

Birmingham attracted media interest after it was said to be considering an annual fee of £700. A spokesman said that top-up fees would be considered if "the worst came to the worst" after the Budget.

He added: "It would not be a flat fee. It would be related to the money we need to raise, demand for each course and the cost of each course. Nor would we do it on our own. It would be in the company of a group of similar universities."

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is taking legal advice on whether fees can be charged once the application process starts. Even if it recommended a £300 entry levy for 1997, far from all universities would implement it. The

split would be largely along new and old university lines. One senior university official told *The Times*: "Only universities in a market position to justify it could charge top-up fees."

Only popular universities can risk putting off some applicants with a charge. Privately, most think that it will be too late to make an announcement after November's Budget for fees to come in next year.

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PARALYMPICS: BRITISH ATHLETE MAKES RAPID PROGRESS TO RAISE HOPES OF A MEDAL IN ATLANTA

Juniper sprints to turn disaster into track triumph

The ethos of the Olympics, we are told, is one that values the act of participation over all others, particularly the winning. If that is still the case today, then the remarkable recovery from injury made by Matthew Juniper, a Cambridge University student, in order to compete in the Paralympic Games, which open in Atlanta on Thursday, could not be more poignant.

Just 20 months ago, Juniper, 23, was recuperating in Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, having shattered his right leg while playing in an inter-college rugby match. So severe was the break that the leg ultimately had to be amputated from the knee down, a loss which doctors initially predicted would prevent him from undertaking any strenuous exercise again.

Indeed, anyone entering his hospital room at the time and telling him that less than two years later he would be clocking 12.4sec for the 100 metres would themselves have been advised to seek medical attention. Yet that is exactly what has happened.

What no one accounted for was Juniper's determination to prove people wrong and to return to as normal a lifestyle as possible. He recalls that one particular letter of support sent to his home in Oxford, as he recovered from the amputation with the help of his parents and sister, epitomised what he felt he had to do.

The letter quoted Kipling's "If", which contains a line about meeting with triumph and disaster and "treating those imposters just the same". "Even when I was waiting to be anaesthetised for my amputation, I knew that no amount of moaning was going to bring my leg back. Now, every time I do something I am not expected to do, I feel I have in some way turned disaster into triumph," he said.

John Cassy meets a university student who was setting national records within five months of having his leg amputated

For someone so determined to prove the doubters wrong, and overcome something as disabling as an amputation, the 100 metres sprint, which symbolised almost everything he had been told he could no longer do, presented the ultimate challenge. Having run the 400 metres competitively at prep school, he was confident it was a challenge he could meet. His doctor put him in touch with the British Amputees and Les Autres Sports Association (BALASA) last October; he has been training with them ever since.

Juniper's progress has been startling. Within five months he had shaved nearly one



The final adjustments are made to the leg designed for sprinting

second off the previous British record for a leg amputee running the 100 metres and, within eight months, he was in the British Paralympic team bound for Atlanta.

Injuries to calf and thigh muscles, which found it difficult to come to terms with the special leg he uses for running, have subjected him to even more pain. It has, however, been worth it.

"It has been a fantastic experience, although being selected for the Olympic squad was a surprise because I'm so new to the scene and still have a long way to go," Juniper said. "Being so recent an amputee also has its problems as the unstable nature of the stump can sometimes cause the running leg to begin to wobble off during a race, but, with time and training, I think I can break the 12-second barrier. It would be pushing it to do it at Atlanta, but by Sydney in the year 2000, who knows?"

Peter Arnott, the coach at BALASA, who has witnessed Juniper's remarkable progress at first hand, feels that by 2000 the engineering student should be looking beyond the competing to the winning. He said: "Matthew has a very good chance of being in the medals at Atlanta, which for someone who is really preparing for Sydney is a fantastic bonus. "We never want to put any athlete under too much pressure, but, seeing his determination and allowing another year's training, I would expect his time to fall below 11.5sec. Given that the current world record stands at 11.4, he is a fantastic prospect."



Juniper, the British Paralympic sprinter, puts his new competition leg to the test

HUGBY LEAGUE

Britain selectors face doubts over Wigan pair

By Christopher Irvine

WHEN the selectors sat down yesterday to pick the Great Britain party to tour Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand next month, one of several difficulties they encountered was not knowing whether two players who should be automatic choices can participate.

Jason Robinson and Gary Connolly will be named today in the 32-strong squad. Phil Larder, the Great Britain coach, was adamant that the two Wigan backs, both experienced international players, should be included, yet their contracts with the Australian Rugby League (ARL) appear to prohibit them from representing their country.

Connolly and Martin Hall, another Wigan player contracted to play in Australia from next year, were both withdrawn from the world nine's tournament by the ARL in Fiji last February. They and Robinson were allowed to take part in the recent European championship, but they are unlikely to receive dispensation by the ARL to tour for five weeks.

If Connolly does not tour he may be able to play rugby union for Harlequins in the Courage Clubs Championship. The west London club has inquired about his availability to appear for them this winter. The Rugby Football League (RFL) has asked clubs not to release players to rugby union who have signed loyalty contracts with the Super League without its permission, but as an ARL-aligned player, it has no jurisdiction over Connolly.

The problem is symptomatic of the mess the game is in at international level. There is no likelihood of it being cleaned up until after the appeal verdict in Sydney later this year, against the ban on Super League in Australia until 2000. The ban was responsible for the lucrative Australia leg of the tour being cancelled.

Sir Rodney Walker, the RFL

chairman, yesterday called for peace talks with the ARL whatever the court verdict. "International rugby is the platform for expansion and we must find a way of re-establishing great international fixtures of the past," he said.

"Those who care about rugby league, and I believe that applies to people in Australia, recognise that the longer the dispute goes on, the greater the damage."

There is speculation that Martin Offiah, at 30, might not be included, in which case he will be free to concentrate on his winter rugby union activities at Bedford, and that the accent in the party will be on youth. At 21, Andrew



Offiah: may be omitted

Farrell, the Wigan forward, will become the youngest tour captain. Although he has been ostracised by Warrington, Iestyn Harris, the subject of much interest from rugby union clubs, notwithstanding a £1.35 million price tag, has been assured of his tour place. Warrington might not want him at stand-off half, but Larder apparently does.

Meanwhile, Wigan do not intend to get permission from the RFL for players to go to union in winter. Valaiga Tuigamala and Henry Paul are close to taking up short-term deals with Wasps and Bath respectively.

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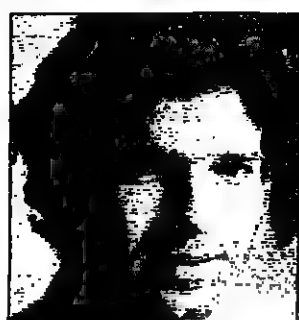
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Villeneuve sets sights on Hill in title duel

OLIVER HOLT



Villeneuve and his entourage, though, have a healthy respect for Hill that is reciprocated by the Englishman. They have become friends as well as rivals in the time they have been team-mates and their relationship does not

week to take over from Villeneuve for the second half of a four-day test. The Englishman is likely to use it for practising the starts that have let him down so badly in recent races. With his team-mate closing in, the margin for error is getting smaller and smaller.



Villeneuve sets the celebrations under way in traditional style from the winners' rostrum at the Hungaroring

Tait expectations tempered for trials

The event, one of the oldest in the calendar, has a 330-strong entry divided among seven classes. The open intermediate section has attracted a formidable array of international riders including two former Olympic champions — Tai's compatriot, Mark Todd, and Matt Ryan, of Australia —

With his Olympic champion, Ready Teddy, now enjoying a month's holiday, Tait is concentrating on the newcomers in his string. Derby, New Zealand-bred and owned jointly by Team Toggi and Ian McKenzie, was brought over

Dixon has the most experienced horse in the class in the outstanding Gel Smart, a member of Britain's Olympic team in Seoul and Barcelona, but dropped from the Atlanta squad because he has not competed in a three-day event since the world champion-


Todd has three rides, headed by Lady Carole Bamford's Vambi Charboniere. The nine-year-old gelding has not proved the easiest of rides — Todd had a fall with him at Brigstoke in April — but seventh place at Hartpury on Sunday has given Todd confidence. "If he's in contention after the dressage and showjumping, we'll be having a go," he said.

CRICKET: Mark Taylor, right, has pulled out of the tour of Sri Lanka this month to have a back operation. The Australia captain aggravated a long-standing injury during recent pre-season training. Ian Healy, the vice-captain, is expected to take over for the limited-overs tournament involving Sri Lanka, India and Zimbabwe. However, the Australian Cricket Board has yet to commit itself formally to taking part in the tournament.



GOLF: Sam Walker, a finalist 12 months ago, was knocked out of the British Boys Open Championship in the first round at Littlestone yesterday. The 18-year-old from Maxstone Park in Warwickshire was beaten 7-5 by Oliver Cole, the Gloucester boys captain, in a match that was interrupted by a five-hour delay caused by the thunderstorms that hit the Kent coastline. Walker, who gained the half-point that clinched the boys' home international series for England last week, was plagued by driving problems.

CYCLING: Gethin Butler, the Great Britain all-round time-trial champion for the past two years, has gone to the top of the three-distance table in this year's competition with a ride of 295.640 miles to win the North Midlands CF 12-hour event. It is the second greatest mileage covered in a half-day trial in Britain; only Glenn Longland has gone further, when he set the national record of 300.08 miles in 1991. Butler now has an average speed of 27.225mph for events over 50 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours.



KEENE *on* CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Spectacular finishes

Here are two games with spectacular finishes from the British championship at Nottingham. In the first, the black king falls victim to a sudden checkmate; in the other, the white king is hounded to its doom at the furthest extremity of the board.

White: Chris Ward
Black: Aaron Summerscale

5 Star Defence

Queen's Gambit Declined

1	d4	d5
2	c4	Nc6
3	Nf3	Bg7
4	Bg5	Bx7
5	Nf3	0-0
6	e3	h6
7	Bh4	b6
8	Rb1	Nc8
9	Qb7	Qxb7
10	cxv5	Nxc3
11	bxv3	axv5
12	c4	Ba6
13	Qb3	Nc6
14	cxv5	Nd5
15	Qb3	as
16	Qb4	Qxb4+

2 c4 c6 17 Rd4+ Bc5+

3 Nc3 dxc4 18 Rb2 Bb5

4 e4 b5 19 Kc2 b5

5 e4 b4 20 Ne5 Rb5

6 Nb1+ Bb6 21 Kc3 Nb7

7 Nf3 Nf6 22 e4 c5

8 e5 Nd5 23 axb5 axb5

9 Ng5 b5 24 dxc5 Nxc5

10 Ch5 fag5 25 Kb4 Nf6+

11 Qxb3 Qd4 26 Ka5 Nc7+

12 Bc3 Nf5 27 Kb4 fxa1

13 f3 Ne6 28 f3 Rc1

14 Nd2 Nxd4 29 Nc3 Na6+

15 0-0-0 c3 30 Ka5 Ra1+

16 Rf1 Bc4 31 Kb6 Rb2+

17 Rb4 Qd5 32 Ka7 Rb7+

18 Qd8+ Black resigns 33 Ka8 Nc7

chessmate

Diagram of final position

a b c d e f g h

Diagram of final position

a b c d e f g h

Diagram of final position

a b c d e f g h

White: Graeme Buckley

Black: Jonathan Parker


British Championship, August 1996

☐ Raymond Keene writes on these
Monday to Friday in **Spidey** and
in the **Weekend** section on **Saturday**.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Ballynov — Cebalov, Graz 1996. In this position White won with a highly unusual tactical idea. Can you see it?



Solution on page 46

FOR THE

ATHLETICS

BOEISER: British veterans champions (men): **100m:** Mike 20:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **200m:** 41:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **400m:** 1:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **800m:** 2:10:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,600m:** 4:30:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **3,200m:** 9:40:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,000m:** 16:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **10,000m:** 32:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **20,000m:** 64:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **40,000m:** 128:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **80,000m:** 256:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **160,000m:** 512:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **320,000m:** 1,024:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **640,000m:** 2,048:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,280,000m:** 4,096:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **2,560,000m:** 8,192:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,120,000m:** 16,384:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **10,240,000m:** 32,768:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **20,480,000m:** 65,536:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **40,960,000m:** 131,072:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **81,920,000m:** 262,144:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **163,840,000m:** 524,288:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **327,680,000m:** 1,048,576:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **655,360,000m:** 2,097,152:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,310,720,000m:** 4,194,304:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **2,621,440,000m:** 8,388,608:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,242,880,000m:** 16,777,216:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **10,485,760,000m:** 33,554,432:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **20,971,520,000m:** 67,108,864:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **41,943,040,000m:** 134,217,728:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **83,886,080,000m:** 268,435,456:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **167,772,160,000m:** 536,870,912:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **335,544,320,000m:** 1,073,741,824:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **671,088,640,000m:** 2,147,483,648:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,342,177,728,000m:** 4,294,967,296:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **2,684,354,560,000m:** 8,589,934,592:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,368,709,120,000m:** 17,179,869,184:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **10,737,418,368,000m:** 34,359,738,368:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **21,474,836,736,000m:** 68,719,476,736:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **43,519,673,472,000m:** 137,438,953,472:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **86,877,906,944,000m:** 274,877,906,944:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **173,755,813,888,000m:** 549,755,813,888:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **347,511,627,776,000m:** 1,099,511,627,776:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **695,023,255,552,000m:** 2,199,023,255,552:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,390,046,511,104,000m:** 4,398,046,511,104:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **2,780,093,022,208,000m:** 8,796,093,022,208:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,560,186,044,416,000m:** 17,592,186,044,416:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **11,120,372,088,832,000m:** 35,184,372,088,832:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **22,240,744,177,664,000m:** 70,368,744,177,664:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **44,481,488,355,328,000m:** 140,737,488,355,328:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **88,962,976,710,656,000m:** 281,474,976,710,656:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **177,925,953,421,312,000m:** 562,949,953,421,312:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **355,851,906,842,624,000m:** 1,125,899,906,842,624:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **711,703,813,685,248,000m:** 2,251,799,813,685,248:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,423,407,636,570,496,000m:** 4,503,599,636,570,496:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **2,846,815,273,140,992,000m:** 9,007,199,273,140,992:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **5,693,630,546,281,984,000m:** 18,014,398,546,281,984:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **11,387,261,092,563,968,000m:** 36,028,797,092,563,968:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **22,774,522,185,127,936,000m:** 72,057,594,185,127,936:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **45,549,044,370,255,872,000m:** 144,115,188,370,255,872:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **91,098,088,740,511,744,000m:** 288,230,376,740,511,744:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **182,196,177,481,023,488,000m:** 576,460,753,481,023,488:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **364,392,354,962,046,976,000m:** 1,152,921,507,962,046,976:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **728,784,709,924,093,952,000m:** 2,305,843,015,924,093,952:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) **1,457,569,419,848,187,904,000m:** 4,611,686,031,848,187,904:00:00s S Peters (Hawaii) 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Peters (Hawaii) **2,98**

[illegible][illegible]

RACING: LEADING JOCKEY RETURNS IN TRIUMPH SIX MONTHS AFTER HORRIFIC FALL IN HONG KONG

Swinburn makes perfect comeback

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

SIX months and a day after suffering a life-threatening fall in Hong Kong, Walter Swinburn rose at dawn yesterday, went for a long walk and offered up a prayer as he prepared for his long-awaited comeback ride. "I just asked God to make sure the day went good, and if he thought I was worthy of it, to give me a winner. Otherwise, if not, so be it."

Shortly after 3.30pm, the prayers of the three times Derby-winning jockey were answered. Talathath may not be a Shergar or Lammtarra, but for the 35-year-old jockey, the four-year-old gelding, trained by Chris Dwyer, will always have a special place in his affections after carrying him to an emotional victory in the Royal Bank of Scotland Handicap at Windsor.

Having recovered from seven crushed ribs, a smashed collarbone, a fractured shoulder blade and badly damaged lungs, before facing an uphill battle to regain his riders' licence, the success was, in some ways, immaterial. "The biggest thrill actually was riding and coming in and seeing the boys in the weighing room. Frankie [Detoni] drove me mad before the race!"

Looking tense as he emerged from the weighing room before his first ride in Britain for more than 300 days, Swinburn was applauded politely by a crowd swelled by several hundred people who had made the journey to the Thames-side track to see one of Britain's most gifted jockeys. When the stalls opened, Swinburn soon had Talathath in a prominent position behind the Detoni-riding Cape Pigeon, before hitting the front near the furlong pole and holding on by a 1½ lengths from Tonal.

"Great, brilliant. My mind is good, but my legs got a bit tired. All in all I was just pleased with my level of fitness. I am blowing a bit and my legs went, but I thought it would be worse."

"What today has shown is that I am lost without racing, so I need racing an awful lot."

"The day I started in racing, 'Frenchie' Nicholson told me there would be bad days than good days and he said if I could take the bad days, it

would make the good ones even better. This is living proof of it."

Despite coming so close to losing a career that he loves, Swinburn has not thought much about the accident and when he watched a re-run of the horrific fall at Sha Tin racecourse on television yesterday morning it was only the second time he had seen it. However, he clearly still feels some anger at the way he was kept in the dark over when he would be allowed to race-ride again.

"I really believed I was going to be back in the saddle six or seven weeks ago. I have been trying to get myself fit since the middle of May, but every time I set myself a goal I had the goalposts moved and I was not given any reason for it, which was extremely disheartening."

Specialists from Hong Kong and Britain — who rang Swinburn at the weekend wishing him luck — gave the jockey the all-clear back in May, but he could not find out why his application for a riding licence was being blocked. Eventually he was informed insurance regulations meant he had to wait six months due to the severity of his injuries.

"My argument is not with the Jockey Club. They have been very supportive. I just hope Dr [Michael] Turner [chief medical adviser to the Jockey Club] has learnt something from this."

While Swinburn was the inevitable centre of television and media interest, Willie Carson also made a successful return from the injury which has kept him off the racecourse for 17 days since bruising his back and arms at Newmarket. The pillar-post victory on Ikdam, the even favourite, in the Copenhagen Conditions Stakes, was his first since 1987, when he retired in autumn, 1997, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday, Lord Hartington, the recently retired chairman of the British Horseracing Board and an Ascot trustee himself since 1987, will succeed Sir Piers as Her Majesty's representative.



Swinburn, riding Talathath, returns victorious on his comeback from serious injury at Windsor yesterday

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
2.15 Spanish Blade, 2.45 The Country Trader, 3.15 Chevalier, 3.45 Longcroft, 4.15 Trade Wind, 4.45 Vain Prince

GOING: GOOD

SIS

2.15 CROMER NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,813; 3m 110yd) (7 runners)
1-45 GEORGE ASHROD 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
2-55 BLUE RAVEN 11 (P) J. P. F. 5-11-2 J. P. F.
3-67 THE GALLANT MAID 11 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
4-80 SAINT BENNET 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
5-95 SHAMSHIR BLUE 11 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
6-100 CORNELL CROSS 11 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
7-100 ANTHURM 10 (P) J. P. F. 5-11-2 J. P. F.

2.45 SKENNESS HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,883; 2m 4110yd) (5 runners)
1-24 THE COUNTRY TRADER 137 (P) P. Hobbins 10-12-0 A. Smith
2-312 NOBLELY 8 (P) J. P. F. 5-11-2 J. P. F.
3-1210 WILKINSON 17 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
4-473 MAKE UP LUV 3 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
5-513 MAGGOTS GREEN 14 (P) J. P. F. 5-11-2 J. P. F.

3.15 YARMOUTH NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,448; 2m) (4 runners)
1-331 ERE MON 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
2-331 ERE MON 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
3-331 ERE MON 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith
4-331 ERE MON 10 (P) M. Morgan 6-12-0 A. Smith

4.00 IMPROVING TIME: BATH, 2.00 SOLILOQUY, 4.00 IMPROVING

Time: Southwell 4:15. Lister Light Lady

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Windsor
Going: good
2.00 (1m 135yd) 1. SHARABANZ (P) 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 2. COURTNEY (P) 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 3. DORRIS (P) 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 4. ALDO RAN (P) 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 5. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 6. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 7. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 8. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 9. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 10. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 11. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 12. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 13. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 14. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 15. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 16. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 17. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 18. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 19. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 20. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 21. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 22. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 23. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 24. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 25. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 26. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 27. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 28. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 29. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 30. S. P. 10-11-1 (W. J. Dwyer) 31. 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CRICKET: STALEMATE IN SECOND TEST LEAVES PAKISTAN WELL-PLACED TO WIN SERIES AT THE OVAL

England drawn to strategical rethink

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

HEADINGLEY (final day of five): England drew with Pakistan

FOR all the brave words and bold intentions of the England team, there was an air of torpid inevitability to the conclusion of the second Cornhill Test match. The draw was an endangered species at Headingley when 12 consecutive Tests, from 1981 to 1993, ended in a positive and often premature result, but the use of a reaid pitch has taken the devil and much of the drama from the place.

The second draw in three years was a certainty long before it was officially endorsed by the sight of Michael Atherton bowling his leg spin at Test level for the first time in five years. His counterpart and friend, Wasim Akram, quaked in mock terror at the receiver's end, but was not quite so amused when he became Atherton's second Test victim, leg-before offering no stroke.

While the cricket was more consequential, England can claim to have had the better end of this latest stalemate, and there were even fleeting moments early yesterday when victory was not entirely beyond them. Now, though, they are in the same position as they were after drawing with South Africa here in 1994.

Michael Henderson 48

— heading for the Oval needing to win to save the series.

It is a reasonable assumption that Devon Malcolm, their saviour on that memorable occasion, will not be summoned for one more reprise. It can also be taken for granted that conditions in Kennington on the first morning next week will bear little resemblance to those pertaining here last Thursday. England, then, have some thinking to do regarding how best to bowl Pakistan out twice on the best batting pitch in the country, and they may have to come up with something a shade more convincing than Atherton's leg breaks.

They are acutely aware of where they went wrong in this game and neither Atherton, the captain, nor David Lloyd, the coach, have attempted to evade the issue. If the seamers had not bowled wicketless short in the first two sessions of the match, England would probably now be level.

That they had needed to strike early became ever more evident. Once the moisture of the opening day left it, this was a slow and straightforward pitch. It never did have the grass cover that England craved, but as its preparation was in the charge of Andy Fogarty, a groundsman in his first year and rightly protective of his reputation, this was

not to be wondered at. Bland pitches were also produced at the Oval last year and Trent Bridge this summer, both by groundsmen newly installed.

It now seems paradoxical that the one England victory this summer came on an unsuitable surface at Edgbaston, where the worried Warwickshire administration has since engaged Ron Allsopp as a pitch consultant. Allsopp spent half his lifetime as the Trent Bridge groundsmen and could produce contrasting pitches to order. Is it too cynical to suggest that he might be centrally employed, advising on the preparation of all home Test pitches so that they no longer conspire against England?

The loss of the last session on Sunday cost England their remaining chance of embarrassing Pakistan, but they did not help themselves by dropping another catch in the opening over yesterday. On Friday, with Pakistan still vulnerable, a catch was put down off the eighth ball of the morning. Yesterday, Alan Mullally's fourth ball found Shadab's edge and carried comfortably to first slip, where Thorpe put it down.

Shadab scarcely profited, making only two before a top-edged pull gave Lewis his first and only wicket of the match. His length was improved yesterday but there was still no threat in his bowling and, as the least impressive of this one-dimensional attack, he cannot be confident of his place if England shift the emphasis next week.

There were encouraging signs that Dominic Cork has rediscovered his rhythm, and his second ball of the morning committed a defensive shot from Saeed Anwar and left him sufficiently to take the edge. It was a fine piece of bowling and Cork might have made further inroads before lunch, one leg-before appeal against Inzamam looking extremely close. Inzamam survived to prosper and it was his 65, made from 83 balls with a series of sumptuously-timed on-side blows, that settled the fate of this game.

It did not end before Caddick, who operated off a short run for some of the day, had taken three wickets as part compensation for his ill-fortune on Thursday, or before Jaz Ahmed had added a composed 52 to his first-innings century.

Nor did it end without some uncharacteristically scruffy wicketkeeping that will only encourage the lobby agitating for Russell to hand over the gloves to Stewart once again. It was resisted for this game, rightly, but the need to that the Oval guarantees that it will be raised again, and that it will go on being raised until England find batsmen who can bowl — apart, of course, from the proud captain.



Atherton, the England captain, employs his rarely-used leg spin against Pakistan at Headingley yesterday

FULL SCOREBOARD FROM HEADINGLEY

England won toss		121 (Stewart 58, 2-188 (Stewart 88), 4-287 (Stewart 114), 5-385 (Knight 43), 6-402 (Knight 70), 7-441 (Knight 98), 8-465 (Cork 7), 9-471 (Cork 8))	
PAKISTAN First Innings		BOWLING: Caddick 40-2-6-113-0, Mullaney 41-10-89-2, Lewis 32-4-100-0, Cork 37-6-113-3, Thorpe 3-1-0-0	
Saeed Anwar c Atherton b Mullaney 1 (12min, 11 balls)		ENGLAND: First Innings	
Shadab Khatib lbw b Caddick 26 (122min, 90 balls, 5 runs)		"M A Atherton c Moin b Weism 17 (12min, 12 balls, 2 runs)	
Jaz Ahmed c Russell b Cork 141 (270min, 201 balls, 2 runs, 20 runs)		A J Stewart c and b Mullaney 170 (134min, 315 balls, 24 runs)	
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Atherton b Mullaney 2 (11min, 10 balls)		N Hussain c and b Weism 48 (110min, 85 balls, 5 runs)	
Salleh Mulla b Cork 56 (183min, 143 balls, 3 runs)		G P Thorpe c Shadab b Mullaney 16 (25min, 54 balls, 2 runs)	
Aali Murtaza c Thorpe b Cork 51 (257min, 220 balls, 4 runs)		J P Crawley c Moin b Weism 52 (134min, 116 balls, 5 runs)	
Wasim Akram c Russell b Caddick 7 (17min, 12 balls, 1 run)		N V Knight c Mullaney b Weism 113 (253min, 178 balls, 16 runs)	
Moin Khan c Russell b Cork 106 (220min, 191 balls, 1 run, 10 runs)		TR C Russell b Weism 6 (7min, 40 balls, 1 run)	
Mullaney Ahmed c Atherton b Caddick 20 (85min, 43 balls, 2 runs)		C G Lewis b Mullaney 6 (6min, 3 balls, 1 run)	
Waqar Younis c and b Cork 7 (11min, 11 balls, 1 run)		D G Cork c Shadab b Weism 26 (88min, 71 balls, 3 runs)	
Asif-Ul-Haque not out 0 (4min, 1 ball)		A R Caddick b Weism 4 (5min, 2 balls, 1 run)	
Extras (b 4, lb 10, nb 10) 24		A D Mullaney not out 9 (45min, 23 balls, 1 run)	
Total (188.2 overs, 945min) 448		Extras (b 7, lb 22, nb 10) 39	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Shadab 0), 2-96 (Jaz 58), 3-103 (Jaz 59), 4-233 (Salleh 41), 5-252 (Aali 5), 6-268 (Aali 12), 7-378		Total (188.2 overs, 945min) 501	
		FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14 (Stewart 2), 2-	

Malcolm wrecks Sussex's chance of victory

BY RUPERT COX

HOVE (final day of four): Derbyshire (23pts) beat Sussex (6) by 47 runs

IT THREATENED to be an intriguing and tense climax, with Sussex resuming yesterday morning requiring 155 more runs with eight wickets intact to usurp Derbyshire's early dominance. Devon Malcolm, however, had other ideas, collecting his second ten-wicket match haul in three championship encounters. Sussex could not recover from a disastrous start and Derbyshire's ultimate victory in a fluctuating contest maintained their place among the posse of counties who still have a chance of taking the Britannic Assurance title.

With heavy afternoon showers predicted, the onus was on Sussex to take a firm gasp of this match as they resumed on 91 for two; but within 12 eventful minutes they stood perilously at 96 for five, their chance of a victory that had seemed within reach on Saturday night, apparently having been thrown away.

Derbyshire, without their former Sussex all-rounder, Colin Wells, who picked up a back injury bowling in the first innings and was unable to take the field, got the early inspiration they needed from their experienced new-ball pairing of Malcolm and Philip DeFreitas.

Alan Wells edged the first ball of the day from DeFreitas to O'Gorman at second slip, and Martin Speight, the first-innings century-maker, quickly followed, comprehensively beaten by Malcolm, who uprooted his off stump.

The nightwatchman, Ian Salisbury, having witnessed the mainstays of Sussex's batting dismissed so quickly, could only muster a solitary boundary to add to his overnight score before lofting DeFreitas to Matthew Vandrar at cover.

The Sussex middle order, however, had not abandoned all thoughts of victory. Keith Newell, in his first championship match of the season, played the anchor role and, first with Danny Law, then with his vice-captain, Peter Moores, took Sussex beyond 200.

Law, 21, profited from some early fortune, edging twice through the slip cordon, but he was driving crisply by the time he was out for 32, clipping Malcolm off his toes, towards the short pavilion-side boundary, where Vandrar clutched the ball above his head as he struggled to remain within bounds.

This brought Moores, the wicketkeeper, to the crease, and he took on Malcolm, announcing his arrival with a savage pull in front of square. Malcolm, inevitably, dropped short and Moores top-edged his hook but Kevin Dean, running from long leg, could only knock the ball over the ropes. On the stroke of lunch Moores repeated the shot in more convincing style, as Sussex adjourned at 208 for six, just 68 runs short of victory, with Malcolm's four overs before the interval having produced 48 runs.

The match turned again immediately after lunch, when Newell was leg-before to Dean and Moores became Malcolm's fourth victim of the innings after an enterprising 56 from 41 balls. The momentum was lost, this time for good.

Derbyshire are now level with Kent in fourth place, and with fixtures against many of the lower teams, their seamers in good form and unaffected by Test calls, they will pose a serious threat.

Glamorgan inspired by thrill of chase for tough target

BY IVO TENNANT

SWANSEA (final day of four): Glamorgan (9pts) drew with Leicestershire (11)

CHASING a target has not been one of Glamorgan's strengths this season. Left to score 335 off what transpired to be 86 overs, and given the ideal start by Hugh Morris, who made his fourth century of the season, they lost five wickets in the last hour, leaving their last-wicket pair of Colin Meeson and Neil Kendrick to survive the final eight balls. Leicestershire, seeking to remain at the top of the championship table, timed their declaration almost, but not quite, to perfection.

If Morris were not six years older than Nick Knight, presumably he would have been among the past and prospective England players over whom David Graveney was running his eye yesterday. He remains conscientious and thoroughly dependable, if not quite the batsman to do something about keeping up with the run rate in the last hour.

Much is always expected of Maynard in such circumstances. Perhaps too much. Coming in after James and Evans had both made useful contributions, he drove and timed his shots off his legs with such an ease that there was no necessity for him to charge down the pitch at Brimsdon. Already scoring at just about a run a ball, his 33 including six fours, he was stumped by some distance.

Brimson, who gained a considerable amount of turn, is yet another individual whom Jack Birkenhead, the Leicestershire manager, has collected from another county. He deliberately bowled wide of the leg stump at Cotley, the double century maker of the first innings, and if that was not pretty to watch, it was a pity that worked.

Irked by this, Cotley swung across the line and was bowled. In came Butcher, who was promptly dropped without scoring at short leg. When the last 10 overs commenced soon afterwards, Glamorgan needed 107, which was not excessive. In the first of these, though, Butcher drove Pierson to mid-off and set off for a run that was only feasible if the fielder, Aftab Habib, missed the stumps. He did not.

This brought in Gibson, who may or may not be aware that Glamorgan are contemplating whether they can afford to make Waqar Younis their highest-paid employee. As the overseas hired hand, Gibson has been a disappointment. At least in this match he has made some runs — 97 in the first innings and some lofty blows here, including a skimming six over long-off off Brimsdon.

Ned, Morris, having made 106 off 202 balls, including 17 fours, was leg-before pushing defensively at Pierson. In the following over, bowled by Brimsdon, Thomas drove him over the rugby stand and, no doubt, into one of those hay carts that in the apocryphal stories are supposed to carry such shots all the way to Llandrindrod Wells. But it did not last. Macmillan bowled him round his legs as he looked to sweep and Croft drove impetuously to mid-off before he had scored.

From the last four overs, 46 were required, which meant that everything depended on Gibson. In the penultimate over, seemingly undecided as to whether to attempt to make 36 more runs, he was bowled through the gate by Macmillan.

Champions send Durham spinning

BY JACK BAILEY

EDGBASTON (final day of four): Warwickshire (23pts) beat Durham (6) by 282 runs

IT WAS as near a certainty as anything in cricket can be that the task confronting Durham yesterday morning would be beyond them. They resumed with eight wickets left and 388 runs still needed for an improbable victory, but there were still hopes of a glorious rearguard action, a batting display which would stretch Warwickshire to the limit.

No such thing. Within 20 minutes of lunch Durham had acquiesced to their ninth championship defeat of the season on a pitch yielding slow turn to Ashley Giles and Neil Smith. It was the turn of

Giles to cash in against opposition which was ill-equipped to combat either his slow left-arm spinners or some fine close catching in which Dougie Brown figured large.

Giles's six for 45 was accompanied by the award of his county cap. Brown's intrepid display earned him a severe blow on the upper arm and a suspected fracture as his Durham namesake swung, full-blooded, at a ball from Smith. By then, Brown had taken three excellent catches to get rid of Hutton, Roseberry and Weston and Warwickshire were all but home.

Victory for Warwickshire kept alive their outside chance of retaining the championship. For all the fragility of yesterday's opposition, there remains a determination

about their approach which inspires confidence that they will not be toppled without a fight.

It was Tim Munton, their experienced acting captain, who began the Durham slide. After an interrupted season he has now settled into his old rhythm. His accuracy and movement off the seam accounted for Bainbridge, playing to leg a ball that held its own, and then Hutton, the first of Brown's short leg victims.

Throughout the match, though, this had been a spinner's kingdom and it was not long before Giles and Smith were in harness, chipping away at tentative Durham batting. Brown took a low catch to remove Weston and half of the Durham team were

out for only 69. When the same Brown-Giles combination accounted for Roseberry, it was just a matter of whether Durham would hold out until lunch.

Simon Brown and David Ligertwood offered enough resistance in their different ways Brown with a free swing of the bat, Ligertwood by means of stubborn defence, but it could not last. At lunch, these two were still together and Durham had reached three figures with eight wickets down.

Ligertwood remained until the end, but when Giles had Brown caught from a skyer to mid-off, and then Killean snapped up by Penny, close in on the off-side, nothing remained for Durham but the journey back to the North East.

Symonds succumbs to Hampshire spin

HAMPSHIRE celebrated their £7.1 million windfall from the National Lottery with only their third championship win of the season, beating Gloucestershire by 63 runs with a ball to spare at Southampton yesterday (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

While Andrew Symonds was playing the quicker bowlers during the pre-lunch session, Gloucestershire looked to have a good chance of achieving their tall target of 379. But, once he had been slowed by the spinners — he was stumped off Marni for 90 after hitting a six and 16 fours — Hampshire took control.

Shaun Udal made a timely return to form, taking five for 82, while Maru had three for

50. The last pair, Davis and Lewis, survived for ten overs before Udal had Lewis taken at short leg.

Hampshire have to find another £9 million to finance the building of a new headquarters and community stadium near the M27, which will include a self-contained nursery ground for second XI cricket, an academy for young players, a gymnasium, a nine-hole golf course, indoor and outdoor bowls and an all-weather sports pitch.

South Africa A will take an unbeaten record in first-class games into the final match of their tour, against a TCCB XI at Durham — on Thursday, after beating Worcestershire by 172 runs at New Road.

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CRICKET

Semi-finals to test nerve and stamina

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE mercenary overcrowding of the domestic calendar reaches its zenith today when six members of the England team step directly from a week of demanding, slow-burning Test cricket into the micro-wave atmosphere of the NatWest Trophy semi-finals.

There has to be a more measured way of scheduling the important matches, but the Test and County Cricket Board has not yet hit upon it, and the projected shift to staging the ties on separate days next year is merely a device to accommodate the ever-inflating requirements of television.

Any fatigue, however, is likely to be overwhelmed by the passion generated inside Old Trafford, for the second of this summer's Roses semi-finals, and at the Oval, where close to 10,000 are expected for

season that Lancashire have got by on nerve and experience in a tight finish. They have not been winning games convincingly and, in the championship, they have not been winning games at all.

There may be no significant correlation between four-day and one-day form, but it cannot be easy for any side to emerge from a string of indifferent performances and turn on the blitz on the big day. It is this that will encourage Yorkshire, whose cricket remains assertive in all three competitions where they retain an interest. Strictly on form, it is they who should be favourites, but the suspicion persists that the occasion, and the proximity of glory, will affect their game more than Lancashire's.

The weather forecast, at least, seems to be in Yorkshire's favour and will encourage them to include Michael Bevan, who must catch an evening flight out of Heathrow to link up with the Australia side. Bevan played the resolute innings that carried Yorkshire to a quarter-final win over Lancashire at Headingley last year and he, for one, will relish the pressures of the day.

The same applies to Essex's Australian, Stuart Law, who will be on a different aircraft tonight bound for the same place as Bevan. Law has made 11 centuries for Essex in all cricket, including at least one in each of the four leading competitions and one against the touring team. Not even Graham Gooch has achieved this in a single season.

Gooch has already played in six Lord's finals and will not have many more opportunities to play a seventh. He is batting as well as ever, though, and on a ground where he has traditionally made runs, Surrey will be concerned if he lingers.

Surrey have won nothing since 1982, but they remain in strong contention for three trophies this summer and are arguably best suited by the regulations of the NatWest. They bat deep and powerfully and have sufficient all-rounders to make up the ideal one-day side. A final between Surrey and Yorkshire would be evocative of bygone days, but it would also reflect the emerging areas of strength.



Sharpe takes a look at his new Elland Road surroundings after completing his £4.5 million signing from Manchester United yesterday

Wilkinson sets out new agenda

BY PETER BALL

HOWARD WILKINSON'S reconstruction of Leeds United took another step yesterday when he completed the signing of Lee Sharpe. Manchester United's former England left winger, for £4.5 million, Sharpe signed a four-year contract on the Elland Road pitch in front of around 100 cheering supporters — rather fewer than turn up for the average day's training at Manchester United.

Sharpe anyway had few illusions about the direction he has taken. "It is going to be different and a bit weird," he said. "I shall perhaps be a bigger fish in a smaller pond, rather than the other way round at Old Trafford, but I'm looking forward to it."

"When you've been somewhere for eight years, it is a wrench to leave, and when you see United's performance in the Charity Shield, you wonder about leaving such a good team. But the most I could have expected was a place on the bench and getting on for 20 minutes here, half an hour there."

"I wasn't enjoying my football because I wasn't playing regularly in my best position, wide on the left, and that meant I wasn't getting the consistency. Leeds are on a rebuilding programme, and it

is an exciting time for me. There are new players, a new manager, and that's a new challenge."

Johnny Giles and Gordon Strachan accepted similar circumstances when they left Old Trafford for Elland Road. Sharpe may not be quite in their league, but he will relish one of the challenges Wilkinson offered him, that of regaining his place in the England squad.

Part of Sharpe's motivation in leaving Manchester United was to secure regular first-team football and attract the

attention of Glenn Hoddle, the new England manager. He has received immediate encouragement from Wilkinson. "Glenn phoned me last week and expressed his disappointment at the dearth of left-sided players," said the Leeds manager.

"I said to Lee, slightly tongue in cheek, that I would phone Glenn and tell him we might have solved his problem. Prior to his illness and injury, on that side Lee had no peer. When Gary Speed left, I was obviously looking for a left-sided player and, when

you looked at the list, it was difficult to get beyond Lee Sharpe."

Certainly, if Sharpe can recapture his form of three years ago, before a debilitating illness took a great deal out of him, Hoddle as well as Leeds will be happy. Leeds have good reason to remember the player of those days, Sharpe giving Mel Sterland, then the Leeds right back, a torrid time in the both legs of a League Cup semi-final, but Wilkinson also insisted that reports of his decline had been exaggerated.

"He played 40 games for a team which did the double last season, so that's testimony enough," he said. "But when you've been a fit young footballer roaring all over the place and then you find yourself sitting in a chair with the feeling going out of your foot and your arm and your face, and you're virtually paralysed, it can change your thinking. I only get that way halfway down the third bottle of wine."

Leeds's form last season would make a resort to a third bottle of wine understandable, but Wilkinson is upbeat at the moment. "I said after the League Cup final defeat that we would have to start again, and that's what we've done this summer, started again."

As well as Sharpe, Lee Bowyer has arrived from Charlton Athletic to bolster midfield. The signing of Nigel Martyn, from Crystal Palace, should solve a long-standing goalkeeping problem. Ian Rush has also arrived to provide goals and leadership — and the knowledge, gleaned from Liverpool, of how to win. "A lot of the off-the-field things I wanted to achieve have been achieved, but not all of them. If I could wave a magic wand this afternoon, I would probably sign two more players, but I can't," Wilkinson said.

Players' strike looms larger

A STRIKE by Nationwide League players edged closer yesterday when the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) announced its decision to ballot its members (Russell Kempson writes). The PFA went ahead with its plans despite threats of legal action from the Football League if such steps were taken.

Matters have come to a head over the League's decision to stop paying the traditional ten per cent of its television revenue to the PFA. At the League's last annual meeting, a resolution was passed that any future pay-

ments should be on a "discretionary" basis.

On Sunday, at a PFA management committee meeting in Manchester, it was unanimously agreed to ask members for a mandate to strike. Mick McGuire, assistant chief executive of the PFA, said: "I hope this action focuses the minds of the League. It's a fundamental issue and it's important our members vote on it. This sets the process in motion. We're aware that the League has threatened to take legal action to stop us, but it's an industrial dispute and we're entitled to ballot our members."

The League has signed a £25 million deal with Sky TV, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, parent company of *The Times*, and any strike would only affect those matches due to be screened live. The FA Premier League, which runs the FA Carling Premiership, has a separate deal with Sky and is not involved in the present dispute.

Andy Williamson, assistant secretary of the League, said: "The PFA is obviously the realist of football's new market place. It seems that the PFA is intent on setting out on a collision course."

SCOREBOARDS

Britannia Assurance county championship

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

SWANSEA (first day of four): Glamorgan (3pts) drew with Leicestershire (11) LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings 536 (B. F. Smith 190, P. V. Simmons 92, P. A. Cotter 4 for 48)

Second Innings

V. J. Wells c sub b Croft 46

D. L. Maddy b Thomas 12

G. D. Macmillan c sub b Thomas 31

B. F. Smith run out 32

P. V. Simmons c sub b Croft 28

P. A. Cotter not out 16

D. J. Mills c Evans b Croft 11

G. D. Macmillan not out 16

Eds (9.4, 10.7, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 13.0, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 14.0, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9, 15.0, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 16.0, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.9, 17.0, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 18.0, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, 19.0, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7, 19.8, 19.9, 20.0, 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, 20.8, 20.9, 21.0, 21.1, 21.2, 21.3, 21.4, 21.5, 21.6, 21.7, 21.8, 21.9, 22.0, 22.1, 22.2, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 22.6, 22.7, 22.8, 22.9, 23.0, 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.6, 23.7, 23.8, 23.9, 24.0, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, 24.5, 24.6, 24.7, 24.8, 24.9, 25.0, 25.1, 25.2, 25.3, 25.4, 25.5, 25.6, 25.7, 25.8, 25.9, 26.0, 26.1, 26.2, 26.3, 26.4, 26.5, 26.6, 26.7, 26.8, 26.9, 27.0, 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, 27.5, 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9, 28.0, 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, 28.5, 28.6, 28.7, 28.8, 28.9, 29.0, 29.1, 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 29.8, 29.9, 30.0, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, 30.4, 30.5, 30.6, 30.7, 30.8, 30.9, 31.0, 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 31.4, 31.5, 31.6, 31.7, 31.8, 31.9, 32.0, 32.1, 32.2, 32.3, 32.4, 32.5, 32.6, 32.7, 32.8, 32.9, 33.0, 33.1, 33.2, 33.3, 33.4, 33.5, 33.6, 33.7, 33.8, 33.9, 34.0, 34.1, 34.2, 34.3, 34.4, 34.5, 34.6, 34.7, 34.8, 34.9, 35.0, 35.1, 35.2, 35.3, 35.4, 35.5, 35.6, 35.7, 35.8, 35.9, 36.0, 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 36.4, 36.5, 36.6, 36.7, 36.8, 36.9, 37.0, 37.1, 37.2, 37.3, 37.4, 37.5, 37.6, 37.7, 37.8, 37.9, 38.0, 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4, 38.5, 38.6, 38.7, 38.8, 38.9, 39.0, 39.1, 39.2, 39.3, 39.4, 39.5, 39.6, 39.7, 39.8, 39.9, 40.0, 40.1, 40.2, 40.3, 40.4, 40.5, 40.6, 40.7, 40.8, 40.9, 41.0, 41.1, 41.2, 41.3, 41.4, 41.5, 41.6, 41.7, 41.8, 41.9, 42.0, 42.1, 42.2, 42.3, 42.4, 42.5, 42.6, 42.7, 42.8, 42.9, 43.0, 43.1, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 43.5, 43.6, 43.7, 43.8, 43.9, 44.0, 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60.7, 60.8, 60.9, 61.0, 61.1, 61.2, 61.3, 61.4, 61.5, 61.6, 61.7, 61.8, 61.9, 62.0, 62.1, 62.2, 62.3, 62.4, 62.5, 62.6, 62.7, 62.8, 62.9, 63.0, 63.1, 63.2, 63.3, 63.4, 63.5, 63.6, 63.7, 63.8, 63.9, 64.0, 64.1, 64.2, 64.3, 64.4, 64.5, 64.6, 64.7, 64.8, 64.9, 65.0, 65.1, 65.2, 65.3, 65.4, 65.5, 65.6, 65.7, 65.8, 65.9, 66.0, 66.1, 66.2, 66.3, 66.4, 66.5, 66.6, 66.7, 66.8, 66.9, 67.0, 67.1, 67.2, 67.3, 67.4, 67.5, 67.6, 67.7, 67.8, 67.9, 68.0, 68.1, 68.2, 68.3, 68.4, 68.5, 68.6, 68.7, 68.8, 68.9, 69.0, 69.1, 69.2, 69.3, 69.4, 69.5, 69.6, 69.7, 69.8, 69.9, 70.0, 70.1, 70.2, 70.3, 70.4, 70.5, 70.6, 70.7, 70.8, 70.9, 71.0, 71.1, 71.2, 71.3, 71.4, 71.5, 71.6, 71.7, 71.8, 71.9, 72.0, 72.1, 72.2, 72.3, 72.4, 72.5, 72.6, 72.7, 72.8, 72.9, 73.0, 73.1, 73.2, 73.3, 73.4, 73.5, 73.6, 73.7, 73.8, 73.9, 74.0, 74.1, 74.2, 74.3, 74.4, 74.5, 74.6, 74.7, 74.8, 74.9, 75.0, 75.1, 75.2, 75.3, 75.4, 75.5, 75.6, 75.7, 75.8, 75.9, 76.0, 76.1, 76.2, 76.3, 76.4, 76.5, 76.6, 76.7, 76.8, 76.9, 77.0, 77.1, 77.2, 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Take your partners for a dance and for life

Both of my feet are fluent, but not at the same time. This has restricted my dancing career: I have friends who can remember all five minutes of it. Dancing was taught at my grammar school, but so was algebra. My head never grasped 6 + x = 13, my feet never conquered the waltz.

That seemed not to matter as a teenager, when dancing only involved being in the same building as the girl. I could manage that, most of the time. But it appears from *Strictly Dancing* (Channel 4) that couples are back, which means that I am not.

This promises to be a fascinating series, even for me. Especially for me, dancing on television is much like cooking: just because the opening instruction "separate an egg" involves an unconvincing skill, there is no reason to run for cover. Mystery enchants.

The first in this six-part series was about ceroc, or "C'est Le Roc".

as it was originally called. Ceroc, which derives from jitterbug and jive, attracts 1,500 people a week to classes in London. I expect it will soon be an Olympic sport.

The programme included some separate-egg bits, but not enough to put one off. "Man steps in, placing woman's right hand behind his head". Yes, got that. But later: "Man turns woman anticlockwise behind his back, catching her spare hand behind him". Er... Reviewer places hand on top of head, starts scratching, dislocates shoulder.

Ceroc is mostly danced to up-tempo music from the 1940s and 1950s and is not associated with stimulants. A Rave, it ain't. A participant explained that the social side involved "mostly soft drinks", because ceroc requires "a lot of spinning". The dance has also been a subculture, with its own argot.

Ceroc has one thing in common

with other dances. As Bernard Shaw put it: "Dancing is a perpendicular expression of a horizontal desire." Or as Afrikuma Bannerman, a psychologist and ceroc-enthusiast, said in the programme: "It's a dance that involves a lot of interesting, flirtatious getting-to-know-each-other, it's extremely sexual and exciting and very passionate."

The ceroc age range is said to be 18 to 35, a mere bagatelle to the couples in *Modern Times* (BBC2). The classic cautionary tale about what can happen when a middle-aged person gets involved with a young person has a man saying: "Where were you when Kennedy was shot?" The incredulous girl replies: "Ted Kennedy was shot?"

The oddity about the three couples last night was that none of them emphasised this often-fatal lack of a shared history, the ab-

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

sence of the reference points that liner conversation between people of roughly the same age. Perhaps it doesn't matter. These couples had been together for several years, ten in one case. They were Michael, 50 and Veneta, 18, Stephen, 28 and Virginia, 56, Kathryn, 17 and Alan, 44. As usual with the infuriating *Modern Times* habit of not using narration, one needed investigative reporting

techniques to work out more than the barest details.

The barest details of Veneta were easiest to uncover: she is a stripper. But Stephen and Virginia were the most interesting pair. Virginia is a year older than Stephen's mother, who is not reconciled to the relationship. Stephen could scarce care less: "If anything upsets us we say bye-bye to it, because I'm spending the rest of my married life with Virginia, not my mother."

Virginia says that "we are alone in our own little world", what Stephen calls their "love bubble". They frequently kiss while pushing a trolley round the supermarket: it was enough to melt the heart of a frozen cabbage.

Stephen brought Virginia to bed, where he read her extracts from the newspapers. I suppose all this should be touching, but I had the sense that this was a relationship wearing kid gloves, with its

exterior walls hermetically sealed against intruders.

The young women seemed far more relaxed and assured about their relationships than the older men. And less inclined to self-justification. Alan said: "I think we are of a very similar age as far as souls are concerned." Soul matrimony sounds a bit of a last resort.

Still, forget hair clinics, chaps. Veneta is a cure for baldness. Mike had age spots on the back of his hands and was losing his hair before he met Veneta. Now the hair is growing back and the spots have gone. About the only way Mike could lose Veneta is if she becomes available on prescription.

Goff Schumann used to be a schoolteacher, but one night, at a venue for black comedians, he went on stage. Now he is a comedian. The *Day That Changed My Life: Fanny Business* (BBC2) featured him on stage

and off. Its best aspect was in the area of parental expectation.

The last people to hear about the career change were Schumann's family. They were not amused. "My son the schoolteacher", as Schumann's sister put it, had become "my son the struggling comic". Schumann's father was more sad than angry, perhaps more bewildered than either.

The "black comedy" circuit is a small one and will stay small, given the number of black comedians who said in the programme that playing white venues was a sell-out if it involved adjusting the material.

Schumann, who has appeared at The Comedy Store and on television in *The Real McCoy*, clearly has talent and is happy. Long hours touring for business and performing have strained the relationship with his partner, but a love bubble with a slow puncture isn't the end of the world. Is it?

CHOICE

6.00am Business Breakfast (56313) 7.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (56771) 8.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (56333) 9.00 **Defra Smith's Summer Collection** (56338)

9.50 Gourmet Ireland (5997884) **10.20 FILM: Trouble in Store** (1953, b/w) with Norman Macdonald. A department store clerk who is fired is to be a window-cleaner. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs (8654313)

11.50 Lifestime in a Day (8724685) **12.00 News** (56344) **12.05pm The Alphabet Game** (4922503) **12.35 Neighbours** (56344) (8760708)

1.00 One O'Clock News (56344) (33058) **1.40 Small Talk** (5638361) **2.10 Lovejoy** (1407841) **3.00 Knots Landing** (4224348)

3.50 Cricket (5633323) **5.35 Neighbours**. Much to Philip's surprise, Jen continues all (5) (563236) **6.00 Six O'Clock News** (56344) (938)

6.30 Regional News (56344) (416) **7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money** (56344) (8077)

EastEnders. David faces some tough questioning from Joe. Felix takes Sonia's little problem to heart. Ruth faces a terrible dilemma at the nursery. With Michael French and Natalie Cassidy (56344) (400)

8.00 Down to Dusk Safari: Airborne in the Serengeti. Jonathan Scott's Africa safari takes to the air for a trip across Tanzania's magnificent wilderness, the Serengeti (8597)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart: New York If You Can Get It. Gary's new career as a 1940s entertainer is taking off. But can he stand the strain of two opening nights in two different eras? With Nicholas Lynskey, Davina Kwan and Michelle Holmes (4232)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (56344) regional news and weather (2042) **9.30 Out of This World**. Carol Vorderman and Chris Chole explore the paranormal. Chris goes in search of big cats in the British countryside (788145)

10.15 FILM: Jumpy. Jack Flash (1988) with Philo McGraw. Computer processor Tami Doltie is plunged into a web of intrigue involving a sinister repairman, played by James Belushi, a crippled, diabolical, played by Roscoe Lee Browne, and another spy, played by Jeron Kabbie. Directed by Penny Marshall (343938)

11.55 FILM: Crossing Delancey (1988) with Amy Irving and Peter Riegert. Romantic comedy about a New York bookshop manager who, despite protesting that she is not looking for a husband, finds herself courted by a charming, successful, and sophisticated author and by Sam Posner, the owner of a local pickle business. Adapted by Susan Sandler from her own stage play. Directed by Joan Micklin Silver (810708)

1.30am Weather (5617559)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes. The numbers next to each programme listing are VideoPlus+ codes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the code for the programme you want to watch to record. VideoPlus+ (+), Pluscode (+), and Video Recorder are trademarks of Genstar Development Ltd.

CHOICE

6.00am Open University: Measuring Shadows (3708042) **6.25 Light from Semiconductors** (3890077) **6.50 Brian Before Man** (2768435) **7.15 See Hear Breakfast News** (6116058)

7.30 Charlie Chalk (1) (5618923) **7.45 Lassie** (1948161) **8.10 Smurfs' Adventures** (573042) **8.35 Get Your Own Back** (359113) **8.55 Splendid** (1) (2933226) **9.25 Global Gaze** (1) (7632145) **9.50 Puppypod Tales** (3150110) **10.00 Playdays** (7260890)

10.25 Cricket. Coverage of the NatWest trophy semi-finals (92321058) **12.45pm The History Man** (3311865) **12.50 Holiday Outings** (3320258) **1.00 Charlie Chalk** (1) (5618923) **1.15 A Week to Remember** (b/w) (2429042) **1.25 Cricket**. Includes News at 3.00 (4896313) **3.55 News** (3423329)

4.00 Cartoon (5672416) **4.05 The Family News** (1) (5671874) **4.10 Little Mouse on the Prairie** (5213619) **4.30 Ocean Odyssey** (1) (313) **5.00 Newsround** (134333)

5.10 Byker Grove (1) (5630523) **5.35 Cricket**. Live coverage of the NatWest trophy semi-finals (5) (61916329) **7.30 Black Britain: Black Beauty**. Why beauty contests have come back with a vengeance in black communities (56344) (482)

8.00 Picture This: Moving Images. Four years after a stranger walked into the study of Dr Elizabeth Howie at the Open University summer school and killed her, her husband Jeremy reflects on his journey. His emotional journey takes him to the room where his wife died (56344) (7135)

8.30 Tracks. Lindsay Cannon discovers the secrets of dendrochronology — the science of establishing the age of trees (56344) (2574)

9.00 Lonesome Dove: Leaving. (1/4) Award-winning drama of love and adventure in the American West. Gus McCree and Woodrow Call are peacefully retired Texas Rangers, in the small Texas town of Lonesome Dove. An old friend of dubious reputation arrives, telling tales of fabulous wealth and power. The pair are persuaded to undertake a hazardous cattle drive to build an empire in the new land (1) (56344) (1313)

10.30 Newsnight (56344) (98665) **11.15 Cricket**. Highlights of today's semi-finals in the NatWest Trophy (205428) Followed by Weather

12.30am The Learning Zone: Princes and Peasants (57530) **1.00 Building by Numbers** (2007) **1.30 Balcour — Music of Mail** (35356) **2.00 Summer Music** (56344) **4.00 Languages: Espana Viva**. Diaz Tamas, Spanish Globo, Bon Mot (75443)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Snow White (56344) **6.30 Pinocchio** (56344) **7.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **7.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **8.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **8.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **9.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **9.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **10.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **10.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **11.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **11.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **12.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **12.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **1.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **1.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **2.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **2.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **3.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **3.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **4.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **4.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **5.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **5.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **6.00 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) **6.30 The Three Little Pigs** (56344) 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Archaeologists plan ceremony for part of hero of Bannockburn that went on posthumous Crusade

Brave heart of the Bruce to receive proper burial

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE embalmed heart of Robert the Bruce is to be dug up by archaeologists more than 650 years after it was laid to rest at Melrose Abbey in the Borders.

The hero king, who defeated the English at Bannockburn in 1314 and won independence for Scotland, declared on his deathbed that his heart should be cut out after he died and taken on a Crusade by his friend Sir James Douglas. But it never reached the Holy Land. The Bruce died of leprosy in July 1329. His heart was duly removed but it only got as far as Spain. Sir James carried it in a lead, cone-shaped casket and brandished it as a gruesome talisman to inspire Crusaders fighting the Moors.

During one battle, Sir James found himself surrounded. Realising he had no chance of escape, he is said to have hurled the casket into the fray and plunged in after it to his death. His last defiant cry was: "Now pass thou onward



Robert the Bruce: dying wish was fulfilled

as thou wert wont and Douglas will follow or die."

The heart was found on the battlefield next to Sir James's body, returned to Scotland and buried at Melrose Abbey some 60 miles from the rest of the Bruce's remains, which lie in Dunfermline Abbey.

The month-long excavation of the chapter house at the abbey, near Galashiels, was

begun yesterday by Historic Scotland, the agency responsible for historic buildings north of the border. The £30,000 venture is expected to uncover the ancient casket. Historic Scotland plans to rebury it in a properly marked grave at the site, with a fitting ceremony.

Experts caution that there is no proof that the casket contains the king's remains.

Historic Scotland said yesterday that it had no intention of opening the casket to determine whether the heart was indeed that of the king. Doreen Grove, the agency's inspector of Ancient Monuments, said nothing could be gained from disturbing the remains to that extent.

"Historic Scotland has guidelines on dealing with human remains and these would allow examination if it could be demonstrated that this would provide information that cannot be obtained elsewhere," she said. "In this case, however, we don't think DNA testing or carbon-dating would prove anything one

way or the other. It is all so remote now."

The abbey was burnt down by the English in 1385 after an invasion by Richard II, who was enraged by the alliance between Scotland and France. The heart had probably been buried at the abbey's high altar, but was moved to the chapter house when the east end of the church was rebuilt in the early 15th century.

The only other time the heart has been disturbed was during a 1921 excavation. At the moment it is marked only by a small metal plaque.

The new excavation is also expected to unearth the first church on the site and is part of an upgrading of the abbey's facilities.

The Bruce had originally wanted his heart buried at Melrose Abbey but changed his mind when he was dying. He had hoped to go on a Crusade and his dying wish was fulfilled by "Black" Douglas, a fierce warrior who fought with Bruce at Bannockburn.



Excavation beginning yesterday at the chapter house of Melrose Abbey, where the heart of Robert the Bruce is buried.

Bike boys saved after 18 hours trapped on cliff

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO schoolboys told yesterday how they survived for 18 hours, trapped on a ledge 120 feet up a cliff face.

Barry Dyer and Daniel O'Keefe, aged seven and eight, clung to each other on the steep rock all night in pouring rain until passers-by heard their cries.

Both boys are recovering at home after hospital treatment for hypothermia, shock, cuts and bruises. Daniel said: "I'm really glad to be home. I was brave at first but I missed my mum and dad. I tried to go to sleep when we were on the ledge but Barry kept snoring and kept me awake."

Their distraught parents had raised the alarm late on Saturday when the pair failed to return after going out mountain-biking. A police helicopter was used in a search around their homes in South Yate, near Bristol.

But the boys were stuck three quarters of a mile away on a windswept ledge in Barnhill quarry. They became stranded after slipping down the cliff in the same disused

lime quarry where the body of Louise Smith, 18, was found in February.

On Sunday morning two women cyclists heard the boys' screams. They were rescued from the ledge by cliff rescue teams, who lowered them down on stretchers.

The boys were taken to Frenchay hospital in Bristol. Daniel said: "Barry fell down first and I tried to save him but I fell down as well. Barry wanted to try and get back up but I was too scared. We kept on shouting for help; we were really scared."

Barry's mother Jane Dyer, 29, said: "I was sick with worry and couldn't sleep. I left the back doors open hoping he would just walk in."

Daniel's mother Cheryl, 30, said: "It was a nightmare not knowing where he was."

Rescue co-ordinator Bob Hatherley said: "They were suffering from a cold and very frightening night. They had the sense to stay on the ledge rather than trying to climb out. It was a tricky rescue because of the loose shale."



Daniel and Barry after their ordeal on quarry ledge

Foreign breads slice white sales

BY JOANNA BALE

SALES of white sliced bread have fallen in favour of ciabatta and other foreign loaves, a survey has found. The market in pre-packed bread has fallen by £30 million since 1993, while foreign speciality breads now account for sales of £483 million, compared with £356 million in 1991.

Rivals include olive and tomato breads, focaccia and the more established baguette. Croissants are also gaining popularity at the expense of traditional buns, teacakes and scones.

Supermarkets have increased their share of traditional loaf sales: in-store

bakeries sell £252 million of bread a year compared with £160 million in 1991. Breakfast breads, cakes, pastries and biscuits have increased sales. Only traditional pre-packed bread sales have fallen despite supermarket competition which has taken the price as low as 19p.

A spokeswoman for Data monitor, the analysts that conducted the survey, said: "We're becoming more continental in our tastes. While croissants and others increase in popularity the humble loaf of bread continues to fall out of favour. Consumers are becoming more adventurous and acquiring a taste for the new products available."

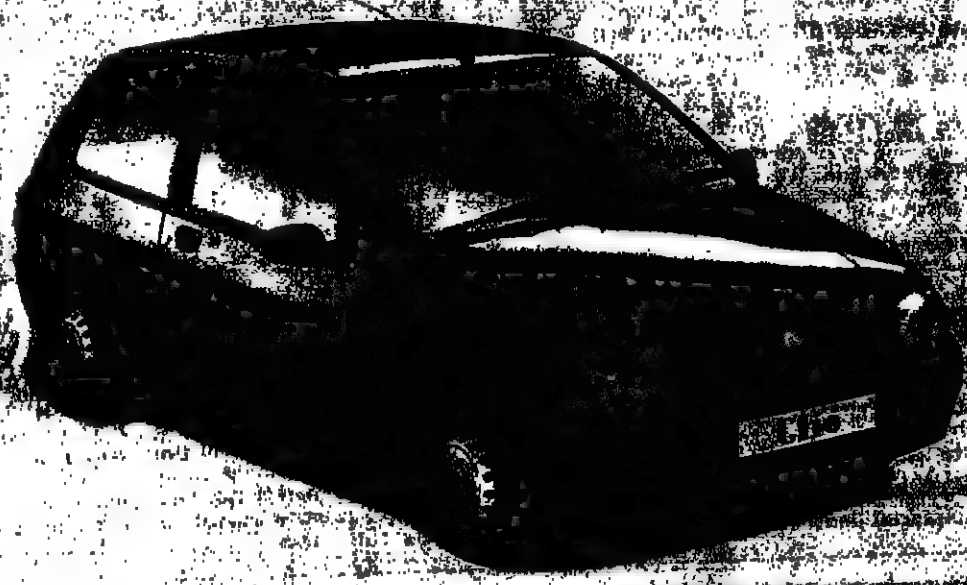
She said it would be hard for bread to sell to more homes as almost everyone bought a loaf at some time, although advertisers tried to persuade people to buy more expensive, better-quality products. "The market potential lies in the frequency with which people can be persuaded to buy bread and the extent to which they will trade up to

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A government pledge to stop British waters being plundered has not ended the trade in licences

Secrets of a weird marriage revealed in Dalí's castle

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN PÜBOL

THE shrill-blue bedroom in Púbol Castle near Girona, northeastern Spain, in which Salvador Dalí was nearly burnt to a crisp as he lay asleep 12 years ago, has been restored at last to its former freakish glory and is now open to the public for the first time. In one corner of the room there is a bright-red fire extinguisher.

The Surrealist painter with the curling moustache abandoned the castle after his brush with death on August 30, 1984. Twelve years later the renovated castle gives the visitor a fascinating lesson in the life and mind of Dalí and, particularly, in his relationship with his Russian wife, Gala.

The painter lived here for only two years, after his wife's death in 1982. The castle was really Gala's home, given to her as a present by the dementedly dotting Dalí in 1970. By a masochistic contract, the painter insisted that she should live there alone, allowing him to visit her only when she summoned him expressly.

Gala, who has been described, perhaps unfairly, as "one of the most evil women of our age", scarcely ever allowed him in, al-

though she did speak to him daily on the telephone. Yet there is no question that she could often goad and inspire her husband-slave to great artistic heights, his painting of her naked back being perhaps the most sensual portrayal of the female form in 20th-century art (other Gala-based efforts, however, such as *Portrait of Gala with Two Lamb Chops* or *Automatic Beginning of a Portrait of Gala*, both of which hang at the Dalí Museum in Figueras, are but the crude works of a lovesick man).



Dalí was dementedly obsessed with his wife

The extent of his lovesickness is described vividly by Fleur Cowles, Dalí's biographer. Cowles writes of an occasion when the two were standing together on the edge of a cliff. Aware that there was something Gala would like him to do, Dalí drew her by the head, pulling her by the hair. Trembling abjectly, she ordered her to tell him what she wanted him to do to her. "But tell me slowly, looking me in the eyes, with the crudest, most ferociously erotic words that make us both feel the greatest shame!" Gala, ice-cool, replied: "I want you to kill me."

The castle reveals the depths of Dalí's obsession with Gala, described by Cowles as "reaching the limit of dementia". The manner of its decoration, with echoes, emblems and motifs of his wife in every corner, shows the extent of the painter's devotion to the greedy muse who cashed in ruthlessly on his notoriety. "Wags who knew the couple used to remark that the anagrammatic form of 'Salvador Dalí' - 'Avidas Dollars' - would be a fitting name for Gala."

There are suspicious beds everywhere, proof that Dalí aided and abetted his wife's



Púbol Castle is littered with Dalí's distinctively strange touches: here a lion's head decorates the top of a dining-room cupboard

renowned nymphomania. As biographers of both Gala and Dalí have described, "the wicked lady" enjoyed at Púbol a succession of sturdy lovers drawn from among the local fishermen and yokels. Village folklore has it that she sent for young men even in her last days. She died at the age of 88.

Dalí was ten years younger than his wife and throughout his life behaved like a little boy when he was with her. Púbol Castle is dotted with his childish attempts to please Gala, none more illuminating of his state than the statues in the castle grounds of elephants with the long

legs of giraffes. There is a stuffed giraffe, too, which gazes dolefully on Gala's simple tomb in the castle crypt.

In the garage near the crypt rests a shiny blue Cadillac, still with its Monaco licence plate, in which a distraught Dalí took Gala for "her last ride around the estate" after she had died.

The castle's restoration, which took two years, was done by Oriol Clos i Costa, the Catalan architect. "We have left things exactly as Dalí arranged them," the architect said, "and tried to repair the place without erasing the ravages of time."

The sleepy village of Púbol, however, has been jolted into a new era. The barmaid of an inn by the castle said: "We have received more visitors this week alone, after the castle opened, than in the rest of the year put together. Dalí, may he rest in peace, has changed our lives at last."

The Spanish Treasury, which owns the castle and manages the Dalí estate, spent nearly £2 million on its restoration. With its opening, Púbol Castle has completed an irresistible triangle for "Dalíphiles", along with the museum of his works at Figueras and the artist's home in Cadaqués.



Gala's bedroom, left, and an outside view of Púbol Castle, where Dalí lived after his wife's death

Police in Jakarta seize party chief blamed for riots

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

INDONESIAN authorities arrested the man they have accused of instigating last month's riots in Jakarta, and nine of his associates.

A prize-winning author, Pramodya Ananta Toer, and Sukmawati Sukarnoputri, sister of the country's pro-democracy figurehead, Megawati Sukarnoputri, were also summoned for questioning yesterday in connection with the July 27 unrest.

Budiman Sudjatmiko, 26, leader of the fledgling Democratic People's Party (PRD), who had gone into hiding after the riots were arrested with other activists in a Jakarta suburb on Sunday night. He has been accused of infiltrating the supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the ousted leader of the Indone-

sian Democracy Party (PDI), provoking an internal party conflict and inciting them to riot, defaming President Suharto, and having links with the Indonesian Communist Party (PKI), banned after an abortive coup in 1965.

The riot started after the military stormed the PDI headquarters in the morning of July 27. Experts say the ensuing unrest, in which three people died, was a spontaneous outpouring of frustration at the economic disparity in Indonesia and not the result of political insurgency.

The police have yet to charge Mr Sudjatmiko, but it is thought he will eventually face trial for subversion, which carries the death penalty. An army spokesman said documents seized from Mr Sudjatmiko gave a "clear indication" the PRD had links with the Communists.

Yesterday Mr Suharto reiterated earlier statements that the PRD was a subversive organisation. He said the members "use the conflict in PDI to try to overthrow the legitimate Government and replace the national ideology with something alien to us".

The PRD is a loose coalition of labour and student organisations. Officially formed in July, it has fewer than 1,000 members.

Analysts fear that the Government will use the flexible subversion law to detain pro-democracy activists indefinitely, without charging them.



Sukmawati: questioned

Ethnic hate fuelled by killing of Cypriot

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THOUSANDS of protesters are expected to attend the funeral in Cyprus today of Tassos Isaac, a 24-year-old Greek Cypriot who was battered to death by Turkish Cypriots on Sunday during clashes in the island's United Nations-controlled buffer zone.

UN officials said the killing highlighted the need to solve the long-running Cyprus problem but had soured the atmosphere for diplomacy, deepening animosity and mistrust between the estranged communities, which were blaming each other yesterday for the bloodshed.

"Barbarous murderers" declared a headline in one Greek Cypriot newspaper while several carried pictures of Mr Isaac, a newly-wed restaurant owner, being bludgeoned with stones and bats as he lay trapped in a barbed-wire barricade.

Greek Cypriot television stations said he was one of three men they showed being savagely beaten. Violence erupted after several hundred motorists stormed into the buffer zone to protest against the continuing Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus. UN forces remained on full alert yesterday.

The Cyprus Government protested to the UN's representative in Nicosia and to the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the Security Council about the killing.

Tokyo blitz on subway gropers

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

TOKYO police have launched a campaign against *chikan*, men who make rush-hour train journeys a torment for women by molesting them.

Muggings and general thuggery are virtually unknown in Japan's public transport system. The scourge of the underground and the commuter trains is the molester, typically a sober-suited, white-collar worker who seeks thrills by preying on women crushed in the trap of passengers.

The victims include women of all ages: even schoolgirls are a target. Three-quarters of female secondary school students surveyed by the police said they had been molested on trains. Only 2 per cent said they had reported the crime, ranging from being groped to indecent assault. Japan's culture of shame inhibits the victims from making a scene and most are too shy to call for help or to fight back.

So crowded are rush-hour trains in big cities that escape

between stations is impossible: passengers on the Tokyo underground are packed into carriages by "pushers".

But concern about the psychological damage to pupils has forced the Tokyo police into action and anti-*chikan* units have been set up. Announcements in rush-hour trains and advertisements in the media urge victims to help the police in catching the molesters.

Women's rights groups say the problem of *chikan* on public transport has worsened because of the lenient treatment accorded to the few offenders who have been caught. Molesters are normally let off with a scolding from the station master or, at most, a small fine.

Yumiko Sugihara, of a women's association that protests against sexual violence, said: "The issue is the tolerance that regards this deviation as male naughtiness rather than a crime."

The police say they are doing their best. "The difficulty is there are so many of them, and they are bold beyond belief," a woman police



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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IN ZAMBIA: THE OVERWHELMING WISHES OF THE ZAMBIAN PEOPLE

Some concerns have been expressed by a good number of our friends especially in some countries in the Western World about the motive of the Constitutional Reforms in Zambia. They have had the impression that the recent amendments made to the Zambian Constitution were arrived at deliberately to exclude the former President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth D Kaunda from standing in this year's Presidential Elections. This impression is far from the reality. Please read on for the reality about the Constitutional amendments.

In 1972 the Mainza Chona Constitutional Commission whose terms of reference were to consult the Zambian people on how to introduce and strengthen a One Party System recommended among other things that the President of the Republic should not serve more than two terms of five years each and that the President should be a true Zambian. In its white paper, the Government did not accept these recommendations for obvious reasons.

In 1991 the Professor Mvunga Commission whose terms of reference included the reintroduction of the Multi-Party system repeated, among others, the recommendations that had been made about twenty years earlier namely on the citizenship of the Presidential candidates and also on the limitation of the maximum period of the tenure of office of two terms of five years each. In its white paper the Government could not accept these recommendations again for obvious reasons. The Government however decided that the work of reforming the Constitution would continue after the 1991 General Elections.

In conformity with the recommendations made by the Government under the former President Dr Kaunda, the new Government under President Frederick J T Chiluba, a Constitutional Review Commission was appointed in November 1993 and it comprised members from the Ruling Party MMD, the main opposition Party at the time UNIP, several other small political parties, Church Organisations, Trade Union Movement and several other professional associations. A leading and prominent Zambian personality, former school master, Government Minister under Dr Kaunda, a business man and a respected lawyer, Mr John Mwanakatwe, was appointed Commission Chairman.

The Mwanakatwe Commission started work in March 1994 and gathered views and opinions from the Zambian citizenry from all the districts in the country. It is important to note that during the work of the Mwanakatwe Constitutional Commission, Dr Kaunda was never a factor because he had retired from politics in June 1992 when he helped elect a young man, the late Kebby Musokotwane, as the new President of UNIP. In his farewell statement Dr Kaunda said among other things that he was proud to hand over the leadership of the Party to a young man. He said that he was going to concentrate his efforts in working for the "Kenneth Kaunda Peace Foundation."

In 1993 the Zambian Parliament passed a bill creating an office of the Past President and determined a retirement package for Dr Kaunda which was backdated to the time he left State House.

The Mwanakatwe Commission repeated among other things the two recommendations which had always been made by the previous Constitutional Review Commissions on the citizenship of a Presidential candidate and the limitations of the term of office to two terms. These requirements do not apply to all other jobs in the country which are open to everybody.

Dr Kaunda announced his return to politics in June 1995. By this time the Commission had already done its work and therefore Dr Kaunda could not have been the target nor a factor during the work of the Constitutional Review Commission.

Meanwhile, most Zambian people are disappointed with Dr Kaunda's return to politics. They would have preferred to see him retire and be honoured.

Zambia's Parliamentary Democracy is governed by the same rules recognised and applied by all countries with a democratic tradition. A Constitution is never tailored to exclude or include one individual or groups of individuals. A Constitution must take into account the larger interests of the country if it is to stand the test of time. It must serve all individuals and all interest groups of a composite nation.

Our democracy in Zambia is nascent but our commitment to democracy and the rule of law remains unshaken. Democracy in Zambia is based on the people's wishes and on what kind of political governance and consequent legal and institutional systems they want in their nation. The people are the final repository of power and they have the authority to instal or remove us from government. The test will be during the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections scheduled for October this year. Election monitors and observers are invited to visit Zambia during the Electoral Campaign and Elections.

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Battle for Grozny rages in face of Lebed 'truce deal'

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW AND
RICHARD BEESTON IN GROZNY

ALEKSANDR LEBED, the Russian security chief, staked his political reputation yesterday on ending the civil war in Chechnya when he announced a new ceasefire and took on sweeping powers to deal with the crisis.

Returning from a lightning trip to the war-torn Caucasian republic, the general, who is now President Yeltsin's special representative to Chechnya, declared that Moscow's current policy there was a sham. "There is no more important question for Russia than Chechnya. It is an open wound," he said.

General Lebed, who met Aslan Maskhadov, the Chechen chief of staff, at a night-time rendezvous in the south of the republic, said they had agreed to a "90 per cent ceasefire". Russian troops and the rebels were also to withdraw. In the past week of the 20-month war, Colonel Maskhadov's lightly armed men have humiliated the Russians by recapturing most of Grozny, the Chechen capital.

But the claims of a fresh truce by General Lebed brought little relief yesterday to the citizens of Grozny as the clatter of helicopter rotor blades, the crackle of sniper fire and the flood of fresh refugees continued unabated. Both sides also appeared determined to continue their bloody contest for what is left of the devastated city.

Last night Chechen rebels launched a major surprise attack on the main Russian army base outside Grozny, the Interfax news agency said. It quoted a military official as saying the rebels "opened up with massive fire" on guard posts of the Khankala base.

On Grozny's streets, dead bodies lay where they fell and the wounded continued to flood into overcrowded hospitals. International aid workers, who have been attempting for a week to gain access to the thousands of desperate civilians, also had nothing encouraging to report.

But some Chechens, who had heard of General Lebed's peace mission, said there was

a glimmer of hope that a peaceful settlement could be reached. "Lebed is all right," said Shadit Bardugov, who comes from the rebel stronghold of Bamut, south of Grozny. "He understands that we want peace. His problem is that he has to convince the people in Moscow that it is time to stop fighting."

General Lebed, in stark contrast to most official Moscow pronouncements about the conflict, yesterday made no pretence that the Russian military performance in Chechnya was anything other than catastrophic. He said his car had been fired on twice, once definitely from the Russian side. The soldiers he met at checkpoints were poorly dressed and underfed. "I imagine that partisans in the Great Patriotic War dressed much better," he commented.

The general, speaking soon after a meeting with President Yeltsin in the Kremlin, said he had been given new powers to deal with the conflict: in effect, making him a tsarist-style "Governor-General" for the republic.

He was critical of those presently involved in policy on Chechnya, saying that three press spokesmen should just "go fishing and grow raspberries at their dachas". As for Doku Zavgayev, the head of

the pro-Moscow Government in Grozny on whom the Kremlin had laid great hopes, General Lebed accused him of telling "torrents of lies".

The former Afghan war veteran, who had opposed the Chechen conflict on principle right from the start, appears to have come down firmly on the side of a negotiated solution. "We have to read our own history," he said. "In the last century, Russia could not defeat the Chechens. Diplomacy won. That's how we should act today." He added that "we can talk tomorrow" about beginning a pullout of troops.

On the political front, he claimed that Colonel Maskhadov was prepared to accept that Chechnya could not be an independent state and had to be part of Russia. The rebel side did not comment on that and it is unlikely to be true.

Observers see General Lebed as still politically inexperienced, and it would be rash to rest too high hopes on his chances of success.

But Emil Pain, one of Mr Yeltsin's key advisers on Chechnya, said yesterday his sheer force of personality might be just what was needed to make a new agreement finally stick in Chechnya. "At the moment we badly need a locomotive which can move the cart from the rut where it is stuck," he added.

A Russian watchdog group, meanwhile, condemned the Kremlin's forces for shooting at journalists in Chechnya. The Glasnost Defence Foundation said reporters from WTN, Agence France-Presse, the Spanish EFE agency, the Prague-based Radio Liberty, and CNN came under fire from helicopter gunships while travelling in their vehicles to cover the conflict.

Bomb blast: A bomb exploded on a crowded train as it pulled out of a railway station outside the southern Russian city of Volgograd yesterday. A woman was killed and several people hurt. A police spokesman blamed the attack on "terrorists", and officials said there could be a link with the conflict in Chechnya. (Reuters)



Lebed: new powers



An East German soldier keeps a careful eye on a workman as he helps to build a section of the Berlin Wall on August 13, 1961

Capitalists make their marks on Berlin Wall

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BERLIN

THE Berlin Wall, which divided the city when East German bricklayers started building it 35 years ago today, is gaining a new notoriety: as an object for capitalist investment. Small pieces of it sell for £2 a time.

There are few big slabs visible and tourists search in vain for the concrete of East Germany's "Anti-Fascist Protection Wall" that snaked for nearly 100 miles.

Checkpoint Charlie has disappeared. The hut on the Western side has become part of an Allied museum in a distant Berlin suburb and the Eastern controls have been slackened. There is now only a mocking wooden board — "Halt! You are entering a building site" — a historic sign in English, Russian and French announcing that the visitor is leaving the American sector and a garish golden

Statue of Liberty. Everything else — the minefields, the dog runs, the watch towers, the barbed wire — has given way to commerce. Friedrichstrasse, once the most dynamic street in the Kaiser's Berlin, was amputated by the wall. Now the street is a long, chaotic building site — cranes with police escorts criss-cross the former East-West frontier — and promises a return to its prewar bustle.

The search for the Wall is wearying: modern Germany does not want any concrete relics, any reminders of division. The cash-strapped Berlin council has just sold a chunk of the wall to Disneyland: a slice is in a glass case in the Europa centre shopping complex. Other fragments are in the hands of private collectors. Two students bought ten tonnes of wall concrete for £20,000 and are hoping that by 1999, the tenth anniversary of the wall's destruction, their investment will be worth close to £800,000.

Some parts of the wall, colourfully daubed by graffiti painters, are under a conservation order. But that has not stopped small-time entrepreneurs from chipping away. One segment, known as the East Side Gallery because of the high quality of its graffiti, forms part of an encampment of drug dealers and petty

thieves. After one of these squatters was stabbed, the police moved in, raiding the caravans and makeshift dwellings. Yesterday the dealers were back, protected by their snarling dogs, and it was almost as difficult as in the East German communist days to approach the wall.

Hans-Joachim Mauz, Germany's best-selling psychoanalyst, said yesterday that the wall was now in people's heads rather than on the ground. "The Western arrogance is still there," he said. "I can see no serious tendency in the West to acknowledge that the Eastern lifestyle also had certain advantages."

Rudolf Stiege, of the *Berliner Morgenpost*, said yesterday that of the 16,000 Berlin couples who have married since the collapse of the wall, only 377 involved East Berlin women wedding Westerners. A mere 135 West Berlin women were prepared to marry East Berlin males. Last year, fewer than 4 per cent of Berlin marriages crossed the old East-West frontier. According to Herr Stiege, even some of those marriages are in trouble. "Different mentalities are destroying marital harmony. Westerners, whether female or male, often feel superior while Eastern partners often suffer from inferiority complexes. If such attitudes divide men and



An East German destroys part of the wall in 1989

women, how can we possibly hope for true political and social unification?

German unification has entered what might be termed the post-heroic phase. A museum a few yards from Checkpoint Charlie chronicles the astonishing escape attempts of the Cold War: the tunnel dug by students, the car reinforced with concrete that rammed its way through the communist barriers, the hol-

French Catholics renounce baptism in defiance of Pope

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS OF French Roman Catholics have asked to be "un-baptised" in a protest over the Pope's visit to France next month.

The move comes after controversy in France over the Vatican's conservative approach to such issues as abortion and AIDS. Denouncing the Pope as "reactionary", several hundred critics have written to French churches asking that their names should be removed from baptism registers. Although Catholicism makes no provision for an "un-baptism", most French bishops have agreed to amend their registers to take account of the protesters' "wish no longer to belong to the Catholic Church".

The movement started in Montpellier, southern France, where a libertarian association, *Vivre du présent*, advises its members to "renounce their baptism", threatening the Church with legal action if it fails to comply. The association says it will take bishops who refuse an "un-baptism" to the European Court of Human Rights.

However, as preparations for next month's papal visit get under way, the protest has spread to reach Catholics who say they have been driven out of the Church by the Pope's teachings. The diocese of Paris says the movement was taking on "extremely serious" proportions. "We had 20 requests for un-baptisms in June and July alone, as many as for the whole of the rest of the year." Staff at the diocese said protesters often demanded that their names be "wiped

off" the registers before the papal visit to France on September 19. The requests come 18 months after the Vatican angered large numbers of left-wing Catholics by dismissing the Bishop of Evreux, Mgr Jacques Gaillot, for criticising the Pope. He had called for the use of condoms to prevent AIDS, tolerance of homosexuality and ordination of women priests.

The Pope is to participate in official celebrations to commemorate the 1,500th anniversary of the baptism of Clovis, the first Christian King of the Franks, and to many historians founder of the French nation.

Airport strike hits tourists

Paris: Thousands of tourists who had booked holidays in the French Riviera found themselves stranded over one of the country's busiest holiday weekends as a strike by ground crew and luggage handlers over a pay dispute at Nice airport moved into its third day yesterday (Susan Bell writes).

Air France and its domestic and European branch, Air France Europe, were forced to cancel a total of 17 flights to and from Nice yesterday. The two state-owned airlines chartered coaches and high-speed trains to ferry stranded passengers to their destinations.

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Dole's rival declares 'truce of San Diego' but claims credit for hardline manifesto

Buchanan orders his rebel army to defeat Clinton

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO

THE Republican party convention opened with another boost for Bob Dole yesterday when Pat Buchanan abandoned his threat to form a breakaway party, declared a temporary truce in his war with the Republican establishment, and ordered his rebel army to start working for President Clinton's defeat.

"Let us, at least for the next ten weeks, nobles and knights and even the peasants with pitchforks, suspend our battles with one another and join in common cause to defeat Bill Clinton," Mr Buchanan urged 1,500 fanatical supporters at a mini-convention in a conference centre 30 miles outside San Diego. Later yesterday, he became the last of Mr Dole's primary rivals officially to endorse him.

A Gallup poll provided more good news for Mr Dole, showing him closing to within nine percentage points of Mr Clinton, or 12 if Ross Perot joins the race, and suggested Mr Dole had been boosted by his daring selection of Jack Kemp as his running-mate.

The Dole camp welcomed Mr Buchanan's call for a "truce of San Diego", but it was clear why the right-wing populist, who won New Hampshire and received 3.1 million votes in the Republican primaries, has been barred from addressing the convention.

His fiery speech echoed his xenophobic, ultra-conservative offering to the 1992 Republican convention that turned off millions of moderate voters. The great issue of the next century would be "whether America survives as an independent republic with her own defined borders, a common language and a common culture", he said. However, this year he not only restated his opposition to abortion, immigration, free trade and the alleged erosion of sovereignty by bodies such as the United Nations, but also insisted he was winning the battle of ideas within the party.

Mr Buchanan claimed with some justification that "whole sections" of the hardline manifesto which the convention adopted yesterday had been lifted from his speeches. "Before our eyes, this is becoming a Buchanan party... our rivals may be the ones waving from the podium down there in San Diego, but it is our ideas that now reflect the grassroots of this party and our ideas that are now embedded within the Republican



platform," declared Mr Buchanan, who wept as he ended not only his speech but his 1996 presidential campaign.

Mr Buchanan's message was utterly at odds with the moderate image that organisers of the official convention are determined to project this week to millions of television viewers who suspect that the party has been taken over by extremists.

The \$28 million (£18 million) gathering in San Diego is in reality a meticulously scripted four-day television show masquerading as a convention. The speakers are overwhelmingly centrist and include numerous women. They have each been told what to talk about, what to wear and not to exceed five minutes. The entire production has been synchronised to fit in with the TV network schedules.

Michael Manafort, the consultant who masterminded the convention, acknowledged there would be no genuine

political debate. Three governors who refused to be orchestrated have lost their speaking slots. The delegates have been relegated to the role of studio audience, and the layout of the hall underscores their irrelevance. The podium looks straight into a bank of television cameras and makeshift studios, with most delegates seated in extremities of the hall from which they cannot possibly see the speakers.

Last night's speakers included two former Presidents, George Bush and Gerald Ford, the hugely popular Colin Powell, and Nancy Reagan, who was to pay a tribute to her ailing husband after an emotional film about his life. It was a glittering line-up, but one far removed ideologically from the strongly conservative delegations on the floor.

Washington: The presence of Marion Barry at the convention has outraged most Republicans in San Diego (Tom Rhodes writes). The Democratic Mayor of Washington, once jailed for smoking crack, cocaine, claimed that his visit was to promote his city as a tourist centre.

"Don't just characterise this as for Republicans only, because a lot of non-Republicans will be there, including myself," he said. Republicans retorted that his trip was a misuse of taxpayers' money.



Supporters on the boat carrying Bob Dole and Jack Kemp to the San Diego convention wave election posters backing the double ticket

Spirit of Reagan has firm hand on tiller

Tim Hames looks at how active grassroots Republicans made the party's presidential nominee reassess his views



More broadly there is a tendency to label politicians exclusively by their views on abortion.

Modern Republicans are badly divided on foreign policy, including related items such as immigration and trade. This may seem odd given that under Presidents Eisenhower, Nixon, Reagan and Bush the party gained a reputation for competent and confident leadership in international affairs.

The end of the Cold War and defeat in 1992 changed all that. There are now at least six rival elements in Republican thinking. Those who favour an activist unilateral policy on behalf of American interests; an active unilateralism in support of American values; a selective military posture; traditional internationalism; military isolationism but economic engagement; and the pure isolationism and protectionism of Pat Buchanan. Mr Dole's dogged but unusual

backing for traditional internationalism disguises the degree of his party's splits.

The irony of all this will be seen when the Democrats gather in Chicago two weeks hence. For they demonstrate the opposite traits. The party is hopelessly uncertain of its views on economic and domestic policy. For example, Democrats in the House of Representatives divided exactly in half on the recent welfare reform Bill.

Senate Democrats place a high priority on a balanced budget. House Democrats do not. On the other hand, there is widespread consensus favouring a liberal position on social issues. There is also increasing agreement behind the economic-centred foreign policy that Bill Clinton has followed since late 1993.

Whether either set of positions and factions accurately reflects American public opinion is the most debatable point of the lot.

Virtually all Republicans favour massive reductions in taxation, a wholesale assault on government spending except defence, and a constitutionally enforced balanced budget. Any of these positions would have been thought wild 20 years ago. They now count as mainstream.

That unanimity enters wide areas of other domestic policy. There is little dissent about the virtues of a market-based health system, the need for fundamental devolution of power away from Washington to the states, deregulation of business, a work-based welfare system, and an anti-crime stance emphasising draconian sentences.

There are, of course, major differences in some matters. They tend to centre on the role of the Religious Right and what the party line should be on questions of public morality and personal responsibility. While abortion is the most obvious and highly charged dimension, divisions exist over affirmative action and what prayers should be permitted in schools.

However, even here two things must be remembered. The overwhelming majority of delegates and regular Republican voters accept the social conservative stance, albeit with some exceptions for difficult cases (rape, incest, the mother's life), on abortion.

Faithful give messiah Perot rowdy welcome

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LONG BEACH

ROSS PEROT, addressing his Reform Party for the first time since announcing that he would run again for the White House, was introduced by adoring volunteers less as a politician than a messiah.

The Texan billionaire who won 19 per cent of votes cast in the 1992 presidential election made his entrance at the Long Beach convention centre

after appearances by two admirers who owed him their lives, and by an Arkansas woman whose house repairs he paid for after a tornado.

Mr Perot confined himself to "facts and figures". With the help of at least a dozen bar charts, the crewcut candidate, who cuts an increasingly quixotic figure, spent an hour hectoring a packed and rowdy hall on the evils of special interests, negative campaigning and trade and budget deficits. "Who do the people in Washington

work for?" he demanded at one point. "Us," the Perotistas roared. "Who pays their salaries?" "We do!"

It was a knockabout performance likely to secure his election as the party's official candidate. It will also dismay those of the party's 1.1 million members who believe their best hope of being taken seriously is under Richard Lamm, the former Colorado Governor and Mr Perot's only rival.

Mr Lamm, once a Democrat, attacked President Clinton's foot-drag-

ging on Republican Medicare reform as "a defining moment when my party and my President blatantly put politics above the good of the country". He condemned as a gimmick Bob Dole's 15 per cent tax cut plan, but won loudest cheers for a tough stand on immigration.

Voting to decide between Messrs Perot and Lamm started on Sunday and continues by post, telephone and computer until next weekend when the party reconvenes in Pennsylvania.



Bob Dole, the Republican presidential candidate, waits to take part in a radio talkshow in San Diego

TWA crash cause 'near right wing'

New York: Investigators remain baffled about why TWA Flight 800 crashed last month, but they appeared yesterday to have decided that the cause, whatever it was, was just above the jumbo jet's right wing (Quentin Letts writes).

Pieces of the metal skin from that part of the fuselage were found to have "bulged and peeled", one report said. The suspect area is near the Boeing 747's central fuel tank. The bulging metal might suggest a cabin bomb, but the US National Transportation Safety Board and the FBI — which has questioned a Lebanese bomber being held by Israel — are also giving serious consideration to the view that the crash may just as easily have been an accident.

Arafat plans plea to UN on Jerusalem

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

YASSIR ARAFAT, President of the Palestinian Authority, yesterday threatened to seek international arbitration if Israel allows the peace process to remain deadlocked.

He made his comments on Israeli state television, the first time he has given a full interview to an Israeli media outlet. Mr Arafat said that the most pressing issue on the agenda was the future of Jerusalem, sacred to Arabs, Jews and Christians, which he said should be given special status, such as the Vatican has within Rome, where people could move freely between the two entities.

Asked what he would do if Israel refused to shift from its

position of retaining sovereignty over the Holy City — reiterated on Sunday in an interview given to the Arabic Jerusalem daily *al-Quds* by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister — Mr Arafat replied: "We have the United Nations, we have the Hague, we have co-sponsors of the peace accords, the United States and Russia, we have the Security Council, we have the Europeans. We'll have to go to arbitration. It is an international need. There is no other choice."

In response to US pressure, police in Jerusalem yesterday announced plans to round up and expel 100,000 illegal foreign workers to create more jobs for Palestinians in Israel.

'Olive branch' welcomed in Hong Kong

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S largest political party yesterday firmly ruled itself out of the selection process for the territory's leader after it returns to Chinese rule next year, but said it appreciated the "olive branch" apparently offered by Peking at the weekend.

Martin Lee, chairman of the Democratic Party, said that he welcomed remarks by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, to the 150-member Preparatory Committee formed to set up the transition of power next July 1. Mr Qian's remarks suggested that Peking was abandoning its earlier refusal to allow any role for the Democratic Party in government.

Turkey joins Iran to purge 'Kurd terror'

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

TURKEY yesterday promised "full co-operation" with Iran to crush Kurdish terrorism after the signing of a \$23 billion (£14.8 billion) gas supply agreement that binds Ankara closer to Tehran.

Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish Islamist Prime Minister, promised a rapid expansion of co-operation with Iran and said they would join forces to stop terrorist activities in the region. He was apparently referring to Kurdish rebel activity on the Iranian border, which has caused tension between the countries. Mr Erbakan ended his three-day visit with the formal signing of the gas deal that has

caused dismay in America. It provided for a 20-year supply of Iranian gas, and cripples US attempts to isolate Iran by imposing sanctions on firms investing in its energy sector. Turkey has argued that the deal, one of the largest it has struck, does not expose it to American sanctions because 680 miles of the pipeline would be built on Turkish soil and the bulk of Turkish investment would remain in Turkey. What will worry Washington, however, is the prospect of much closer ties between Turkey, a pivotal NATO member, and Iran.

Leading article, page 17

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My obsession with shoes

ADDICTION
ADDICTION
ADDICTION

On Day Two of our series, the irresistible allure of a shoeshop for one woman, and of unattainable teenage girls for one man; plus a look at possible methods of treatment

THE FOOTWEAR COLLECTOR

I don't think I'm a shoe addict. I really don't. But then I probably wouldn't. Most addicts deny their craving. It falls to others to point it out. I was first alerted to my condition a couple of years back, by my assistant at Vogue, who could contain herself no longer, as I shuffled by with yet another small rectangular carrier bag.

"You know what," she said, "you're an addict. I've never met anyone who buys so many shoes." Until that point I had just regarded myself as someone who was rather heavy on their feet, always having to replace a worn sole or terminally scuffed toe.

It was true that I had been known to buy three nearly identical pairs of black suede court shoes within the space of a week, but I'd never thought that was particularly unusual. Now I find a creeping guilt shrouds every purchase.

Why shoes became important to me in the first place remains a mystery. The closest I can get to self-analysis is that I must be wreaking my own small revenge on a series of elderly shop assistants in the early 1960s who, brandishing the Start Rite sliding rule, would cast one glance at my

feet and mutter to the accompanying adult: "Oh, madam... I don't believe we have anything that size in stock. Your little girl is a double E."

EE condemned me to a childhood of hideous red school shoes that were always "roomy" and rounded as opposed to the more elegant, shiny, pointed-toe red shoes of my friends.

EE meant hours of sitting in the small chairs that swung around in the Harrods shoe department, while style after style was rejected on the grounds that my feet would not be able to "breathe". Is it any wonder that I now wear the highest heeled, most impractical and fragile footwear in town?

The other day it did occur to me that my shoe situation was getting out of hand. I was on my way to buy yet another canvas hanging bag for shoes, of the kind that allows you to stack a dozen pairs vertically hanging from a rail in the cupboard.

This was intended to induce some order into my shoe collection, but I ended up by having to move my clothes out altogether.

When my husband surveyed the scene he remarked that it was now impossible to fit anything into our bedroom cupboard, so I tried to compensate by utilising my old Manolo Blahnik and Stephan Kelian shoeboxes to house our toolkit.

I thought that by recycling them as useful storage for plugs, spanners, fuses etc. I was not only being practical but clearing the way for the impending avalanche of new winter footwear.

Shoes as objects do not particularly interest me but despite that I find them almost impossible to throw away. Memories of my life over the past 20 years can be triggered by a heel.

There is very little as unattractive as old shoes, but I treasure the tarnished gold stilettos embroidered with little blue flowers because they remind me of a holiday in California.

I refuse to throw out a pair of jade green suede boots with a spectacularly ugly heel because they remind me of the excitement of buying my first flat. Some families have photograph albums, I have shoe bags. One of the most appealing

aspects of shoes is that they are noticed by other people. The first pair of Manolo Blahnik's I ever owned were given to me as a cast-off from someone who had so many pairs she would wear them as others do their bedroom slippers.

They were scarlet velvet evening pumps with a Perspex buckle and they provoked comment (mostly favourable) wherever I went. It quickly became apparent to me that it didn't really matter what else you wear so long as you have a pretty pair of shoes.

Most Englishwomen do not share this attitude. Witness your average wedding party, where a huge amount of effort will have gone into the hats and will have diminished the further down the body you travel, until you most likely meet a pair of rather shabby dark shoes that have crossed one car-parking field too many. However, while most men remain at



Alexandra Shulman: "Is it any wonder that I now wear the highest heels in town?"

best reluctant to comment on a woman's wardrobe, they will always notice a good pair of shoes, from which I deduce that they spend a great deal of time looking down at the floor.

The other day a journalist wrote to me that friends doubted I had taken an illegal drug in my life. Perhaps friends should have told him about the shoes.

ALEXANDRA SHULMAN

● The author is the Editor of Vogue

Living out an erotic fantasy

SEX

Every sex addict has his own thing, the thing he likes the most, although "like" is hardly the word for the inexorable pull I felt and sought and sometimes still feel. It's as if an electronic magnet in my solar plexus were switched on. At its most intense, I'd go into a kind of trance, dissociated, beamed in from Mars, my mouth dry and my heart pounding. One of my partners once said to me: "You are like another person when we go into sex." That's how I put it, too: go into sex. Any way I could get there was fine. But the best way was anonymous sex, with a teenage girl, initiated by a secret touch. I spent most of my adult life in public watching for her, checking every prospect for what I called The Look — pouting, furious, damaged, sullen — short skirts, tight jeans, halter tops, spiked-heel pumps.

When I saw her, it was like getting hit in the face by a door. I'd tie my shoelace or pretend to window-shop trying to catch her eye. On the few occasions I managed to talk to her, I blew it. I became tongue-tied. I felt like a pervert, his evil intent blaring like a bullhorn. Yet I wanted her more than anything, so she stood as a constant reproach because I was obviously not sexy enough or good-looking enough or fearless enough to get her.

I was able to write (from midnight to 6am), I could teach, I could laugh, I could enjoy reading or exercising or cooking, but there was often this thing between me and enjoyment: my thing, the thing I liked the most but never got.

What I got were approximations and compromises — students, strangers, almost anyone who was attracted to me. When I was in the same room with someone I wanted but hadn't had — whatever my relationship to her, her husband, or to anyone else — the social world was a thin, irritating haze covering the real world of sex where we should be together. I wanted to touch her, I wanted to have some part of my body in contact with hers. Sitting at a table, my attention was under the table no matter how engaging the dinner conversation. I always knew where her legs and feet were. There could be looks or words, but looks and words weren't enough for me. The signal had to be palpable. Then I'd store it in my fantasy bank, and sneak in there like a miser to toy with it and shape it into a porno video I'd play over and over again in my mind.

I had always hidden myself from my family. It was not that I wasn't the person my friends knew, but I was also

someone else, and not just someone else, really someone else, this secret person being the real one.

My primary loyalty was to sex. No human relationship took precedence over it. No marriage, not friendship, and certainly not ethics. When I pressed my knee against an anonymous knee in a movie or on a plane, or tried to hustle someone in a disco, or seduced a student half my age, I knew I'd soon get bored with it.

I thought any man would do what I did if he were powerful enough. Yet since my appetite was infinite, I wasn't nearly powerful enough either. I never got what I really wanted, and I hated myself for that, and hated life, and hated myself again for caring about sex more than anything or anybody, including the people I loved. But I couldn't stop. Just as every addict has his own thing, so every addict has his own "bottom", which may



Basics: Stone and Douglas

well be below death, as it was for my father, who died a practising alcoholic. There's certainly no rational reason why I wasn't killed any number of times — by an outraged husband or father or sexual partner, male or female, or by HIV.

"I'm alive and I'm not in jail" is sometimes the most one can say after one stops the addictive behaviour and experiences full force the suicidal self-hatred behind such compulsive risk-taking. You marshal all your intelligence and charm and power to keep the addiction alive — if necessary, at the expense of your own life.

The amazing thing is how any addict ever stops before he dies. Getting fired by Princeton did not make me stop. Losing my wife did not make me stop. Risking my life and the lives of my partners did not make me stop.

MICHAEL RYAN

● Extracted from the author's book, *Secret Life*, published by Bloomsbury at £5.99

Addiction is a disease

GENETIC ROOTS

MY BELIEF is that addiction is a disease which is inherited through our genes. I base this on research studies in America by Professor Noble, a geneticist and head of alcohol research at UCLA, which show that neurotransmission systems in the brain — which control mood — are defective in some people. This leads to anxiety, depression and emotional emptiness, which provoke an excessive appetite for mood-altering substances, behaviours or relationships.

The theory is supported by studies which show that people with addictions tend to have a family history of substance abuse. This is not to suggest that environmental factors play no part. Trauma or exposure to substances may bring on addiction, but not everyone becomes an addict, because they lack the inherited neurotransmission disease. For example, research shows a significant correlation between bulimia and sexual abuse. However, while people

with inherited addictive tendencies may become bulimic after being abused, those without will cope in other ways.

The standard treatment for most addictions is pharmaceutical. However, the underlying anxiety, depression and emotional "emptiness" are not addressed. I believe that addiction can be overcome only with the help of recovery programmes involving the XII-Step programme first developed by Alcoholics Anonymous. The programme says the only way to overcome addiction is to replace the mood-altering effect of the addictive substance with another activity, and encourages addicts to gain a feeling of reward through helping others in the same position.

DR ROBERT LEFEVER

● The author is the founder of the Promis Recovery Centre in Kent (01304 541700, outpatient centre 0171-581 8222)

HELPLINE NUMBERS

National Drugs Helpline: 0800 776600
Narcotics Anonymous: 0171-272 9040
Alcoholics Anonymous: 01272 455557
Alcohol Concern: 0171-428 7377
Nicotine Anonymous: 01932 893173
Eating Disorders Association: 01603 621414
Overeaters Anonymous: 01426 984674
Gamblers Anonymous: 0171-384 3040
Sex Addicts Anonymous: 0171-402 7278
Wallerwatch (shopping addicts): 0181-361 2411
Promis Counselling Centre (shopping addicts): 0800 374318

Can't stop when you've had enough

ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Other patients who have problems in controlling their impulses in fact make great collectors and they continue to experience great pleasure every time they look at, feel or use the goods which have been

acquired so impulsively. Doctors are rather pessimistic about their ability to treat those who have failure of impulse control. In some cases their patients fall into the hands of the police or debt

collectors, but in those where the tendency is antisocial rather than criminal, the best which can be arranged is psychotherapy designed to give the patient an insight into their own behaviour.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



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Two weddings and a cross-country dash

How to get to the church on time in Sussex and Scotland on one day

IT WAS the ultimate social dilemma. Two old friends, two invitations, two weddings — and both on the same day. Worse, they were at opposite ends of the country, one on the Sussex coast, the other 400 miles away in the Scottish Borders. There seemed to be no option open that would not upset someone.

But they did not allow for the anorak cunning of *The Times* transport correspondent. The train timetable revealed that there was a hope, albeit slim, of attending at least part of both sets of nuptials. Mission impossible? Tom Cruise had nothing on us.

My girlfriend, Sonia, and I arrived for Wedding One, a 1pm church ceremony in an impossibly pretty village. The taxi to rush us to the station was ordered for 1.45pm: the train tickets

were in my jacket pocket, everything was under control. The vicar did us a favour, hurrying through the ceremony at breakneck speed in half an hour. A couple of extra hymns and we would have been lost.

A quick "official" snap with the newlyweds and off we set, destination Kels. "Haywards Heath station," I cried. "We've got a wedding to catch!"

This was where the transport expertise had come into its own. While most Haywards Heath trains arrive at Victoria, a handful wriggle their way through central London to King's Cross Thameslink, within a few minutes' walk of the main King's Cross station, where our train for the North was waiting. If we caught the 2.46, and if it arrived on time, we would have 15 minutes to haul our luggage across the Pentonville Road to catch the 4pm Edinburgh express.

But this was all in the future. Back on the A27 the nightmare was coming true. Our taxi was stuck behind a dismally slow lorry on a winding road with no chance of overtaking: the 2.46 was slipping out of reach.

We were saved by the good sense and foresight of whichever Department of Transport official decided to plunk a stretch of dual carriageway on our road. With the lorry disappear-

ing behind us we were safe, for now. On to the three-lane-A23 and Haywards Heath bound. We were now in the hands of British Rail. It was at this stage, as the meter ticked through the £40 barrier, that the full cost of our two-wedding flit began to dawn. Having paid £92 for the two return train tickets to Berwick-upon-Tweed and another expensive cab ride to come, I was not going to see much change from £200. And that was before presents, hotels and the rest.

The taxi delivered us to Haywards Heath with five minutes to spare. The train arrived, departed and reached King's Cross Thameslink bang on time (and with us another £20 poorer). We settled snugly into our reserved seats on the Edinburgh InterCity. The odds on our making

Wedding Two, which I had put at no higher than 50-50 at the start of the day, were steadily rising. Unfortunately, so was the temperature; our carriage seemed to be equipped with the wrong kind of air-conditioning — none at all. As

the sun blasted through the windows, the train was turning into Britain's fastest greenhouse. We might make it to the wedding all right but in what sort of state? Asking to upgrade to cool first class under the £6 "weekend first" offer was hopeless. The offer was open only to those with standard, saver or super-saver tickets and we were travelling Apex. A quick change in the lavatories to T-shirts and shorts was the only answer.

Once again, our train did not let us down. We arrived on time at Berwick-upon-Tweed, having changed again somewhere between Newcastle and Durham, and caught a taxi for the reception. At 8.15pm, a mere six-and-a-half-hours after leaving Wedding One, we arrived for the final hours of Wedding Two. Triumphant, but exhausted, we emerged from the cab to be greeted by the bride: "You made it, then. I didn't think you would. Come and have a drink, I think there's some food left somewhere..."

JONATHAN PRYNN



Fleur Cowles knows everybody who is anybody and mostly has the photographs to prove it. A saunter through her hallway produces more evidence of a networker par excellence

How to make friends

Fleur Cowles's address book ranges from Marilyn Monroe to Chris Patten. Mary Riddell on the gift of acquiring chums

The name of Fleur Cowles is big in New York, gigantic in Los Angeles and absolutely vast in Texas. I had never heard of her.

Unsurprisingly, she had never heard of me either, although she gallantly pretended otherwise. "I know all about you, and I am SO delighted that you are doing this interview," she said. "I would like to give you a signed copy of my art book — the same one I took to Chris and Lavender last time I was in Hong Kong. Now, what did you say your name was?"

It is not a question she often needs to ask. As her familiarity with the Patten suggests, Fleur Cowles knows everybody who is anybody and mostly has the photographs to prove it. A saunter through her hallway produces more evidence of a networker par excellence. "This is a painting

Salvador Dalí and I did together — and there is the Braque model for the ceiling in the Louvre."

Her book, *She Made Friends And Kept Them*, was published last month. A celebration of the chums she has acquired over the years, its clipped style suggests a bumper edition of *Jennifer's Diary* or the Mayfair telephone directory. But then brevity is a must when one's address book ranges from Marilyn Monroe to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Having done the hall, we are now sitting in the modestly named Great Room of Fleur's London flat, where she hosts her old friend's annual birthday dinner. "Oh yes, I see the Queen Mother regularly. I give her a party every year. Of course she has a gin, and she enjoys the company, and — a great honour — she always comes alone. So I have to invite suitable men, not just tokens."

"I had Pavarotti to sing *Happy Birthday* to her, and one time I invited Harold Macmillan. He was 90 and so frail that I thought he'd never make it to London. I kept ringing his secretary and asking how he would get here. He wouldn't go anywhere without his pensioner's ticket because he didn't like paying, but luckily my party was on the day he was made Lord Stockton, so he was in town anyway."

Fleur often drops round for afternoon tea at Clarence House, where she and the Queen Mother ignore the fawning cakes and catch up with old times. "I would never dream of talking to the family, but she talks to me. I don't think she can be very happy. I don't want her ever to die. I couldn't bear to think she wasn't just down the street."

"Another dear, close friend is Prince Rainier. Grace was like a sister: no question. We even had meals in the palace." What, you wonder, is the secret of Fleur's social charm? "Well, anyone who was anyone wanted to know people with three magazines, five

newspapers, five TV stations and five radio stations. Power."

Fleur Cowles was born in Boston — possibly in modest circumstances, since she does not care to talk about her background. Chosen as the American Ambassador to the Queen's Coronation, she married the Midwest media tycoon, Mike Cowles, and — unsullied by any journalistic experience — launched and edited a magazine called *Flair*, which he closed a year after its inception.

Furious at the loss of her periodical, which she still mourns like a dead child, she divorced Cowles and married a second millionaire whom she met on a plane while visiting her dear old pal, the Shah of Iran. Tom Meyer, timber magnate and former chairman of the Royal Brompton Hospital, has remained both her husband and very best friend — a true accolade, given the stiff competition.

Fleur has travelled with Monroe, dined with Garbo and sat on the floor of Cary Grant's hotel suite, eating a picnic, after a shower disrupted the al fresco treat he had laid on for her. ("A charming man, except that he was always trying to get me to take LSD. He was a very heavy user, but I never sent him round the bend as it did with most people.")

She has also been entertained by Churchill (adorned only by a bath towel and a cigar when he greeted her), and her dearest girlfriends included Eleanor Roosevelt and Lady Bird Johnson.

One could go on (and Fleur certainly does), without finding a single dull or bitter encounter to mark a life of unsullied matins. True, her criteria for a good friend seem generous. De Gaulle, for instance, is included, even though their only communication seems to have been her suggesting he did not like Americans and him agreeing before storming out.

But what is one failure in a

social round oiled by charm and money? Where, you wonder, does it all come from? "Oh, each of us has it. My husband has plenty of money. I have plenty of money." Hence a London apartment worth millions, a castle in Spain, a New York hotel suite named in her honour and a staff of four to run every residence and update her international address books, colour-coded for each country and filled out in duplicate.

Oxford and Texas Universities have benefited from Fleur's largesse. So have a number of struggling artists. (On abandoning journalism, she took up painting and happily discovered an instant talent for a style called magic realism.) In addition, she de-

signs her own jewellery and has written 20 books. When chums call round, tea is served by her maid from her own-design Limoges porcelain.

Who, you wonder, are the real friends? She mentioned several father-figures and the Barcelona doctor who saved her life when her heart complaint was bad. She also talked effusively about a foreign ambassador ("My dearest friend: we're close, close, close") but then phoned in a great flap afterwards to ask for her name to be deleted, in case the rest of this woman's family were offended by their omission.

She is aware of the slight difference between friend and benefactor. "I was born with the gift of making instant

friends. I write regularly; if they're in financial trouble, I'll give. I've made many of the greatest painters: bought their pictures, sponsored their shows, discovered them."

Ah, friendship. Who can really explain it, except to say that the size of one's address book seems not unrelated to the size of one's cheque book. But that would not be quite fair, for Fleur Cowles, while a little starstruck, is really a very charming woman. And generous to a fault.

In the end she gave me two books. "A personal inscription, I think," she said, flourishing a fountain pen. "Now, how do you spell your first name?" After three tries and much crossing-out, we got it right and she asked me to come back for tea. I'm sure we'll stay friends.

She Made Friends And Kept Them is published by HarperCollins, £20

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Showdown at the single currency corral

Anatole Kaletsky on the markets, the central bankers and the politicians

Will the Bundesbank try one last time to sabotage European monetary union? This is the question on everybody's lips in the financial markets, and it may be the first item on the political agenda as British and European politicians return from their holidays. The past few days have seen a resurgence of the idea that the German central bank — or at least an unholy alliance of monetarists, nationalists and politically motivated Social Democrats on its 16-member governing council — is preparing to mount a last-ditch defence of the integrity of the mark.

Speculators have been burnt again and again in their efforts to prise the mark away from the French franc and so destroy the dream of monetary union. And as January 1, 1999, draws ever closer, the chances of a successful market challenge to monetary union seemed to be receding. Yet in the past few weeks, the markets' complacency has suddenly been shaken — as has the confidence of European integrationists in Paris, Brussels and Bonn. Inspired by a combination of French economic weakness and political intrigue against the Banque de France in Paris, the markets have launched another speculative sortie against the franc fort. So far, the attack has been minor, and it could be attributed to nothing more sinister than the boredom of currency traders during a quiet August, spiced up with some rumours from Paris about a campaign by the Elysée Palace to destabilise Jean-Claude Trichet, the Governor of the Banque de France.

M. Trichet has been linked repeatedly in French newspapers with criminal irregularities in various banks during the late 1980s, when he was the official ultimately in charge of bank regulation. These stories are generally assumed to have been leaked by the Elysée Palace as a warning shot against M. Trichet, who was reportedly reminded by M. Chirac during last year's presidential election campaign that the ultimate responsibility for France's economic policy rests with the President, not the central bank. Since M. Trichet is widely seen in France as the staunchest defender of the franc fort and a close personal friend of Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the German central bank, these press stories have naturally rebounded against the franc.

The flurry of speculation could all blow away like a summer storm — indeed this seems to be what many of the most important market operators seem to be assuming at present. But if the selling of the franc continues and begins to gather momentum — and this is quite likely, given the growing evidence of a genuine rift between M. Trichet and President Chirac — the implications will be momentous for France, Germany and Europe, and not least for the people who started all the trouble, the 16 middle-aged men who run the Bundesbank.

Why blame the Bundesbank for an outbreak of market hostility apparently precipitated by political intrigue in Paris? Because the real economic causes of the chronic speculation against the franc are located in Frankfurt, not Paris, and because the rift between the French President and his central bank is just a mirror image of more important political divisions among the central bankers and politicians in Germany.

To look first at the economics, the key problem faced by the franc and other European currencies still tied

to Germany in the European exchange-rate mechanism is that the Bundesbank appears to be willing to condemn Germany to a long period of extremely sluggish growth and high unemployment. It does not seem to be concerned about the overvaluation of the mark against the dollar, the yen, sterling and other international currencies and the consequent flight of industrial capital and jobs out of Germany. In part this lack of concern stems from a genuine belief that German industry is able to hold its own against the world regardless of labour costs which are between 30 and 50 per cent higher than in other advanced industrialised countries such as America and Japan.

The Bundesbank's belief in the innate superiority of German industry — much of it based on the performance of declining manufacturing industries in which other countries do not even bother to compete — is reminiscent of the complacency displayed by the Bank of Japan and the Japanese industrial establishment in the early 1990s. But this ominous comparison makes no impression on the self-confidence of German public and political opinion, still mesmerised by the myth of the *Wirtschaftswunder* of the 1950s.

For France, however, the Bundesbank's acceptance of low growth and an overvalued currency is unacceptable.

In Europe, monetary policy is a form of war by other means

French industrialists see all too clearly the competitive challenge from America and the Far East, not to mention Italy, Spain and Britain; but they do not enjoy the temporary advantage of Germany's export-oriented industrial structure, which makes it possible to maintain export growth for many years, despite an overvalued currency.

The markets know this perfectly well, and therefore tend to attack the franc every time the mark strengthens against the dollar and other currencies. And it is precisely this conjuncture that the Bundesbank has now managed to create.

Three weeks ago, Herr Tietmeyer led the markets to expect a cut in German interest rates and therefore a weakening of the mark. The Bundesbank council then refused to make such an adjustment, triggering a flight into the mark from the dollar, the yen and other European currencies. The market suspicion is that this chain of events was no coincidence. Herr Tietmeyer appeared to be overruled by the Bundesbank faction that still wants to sabotage monetary union. In the next few days, events will either confirm or refute these suspicions. At the Bundesbank's council meeting in ten days' time, Herr Tietmeyer will have another chance to argue for a small cut in interest rates, which would signal to the markets that Germany does not want the mark to rise further against the franc. But if there is no such gesture from Frankfurt, the speculators could well declare another open season on the franc. M. Trichet at the Banque de France would then have to defend the franc fort with higher interest rates.

To judge by last week's warning shots against M. Trichet, President Chirac would not take kindly to this — perhaps calculating that he could instead go over the Bundesbank's head and make a political deal to save monetary union directly with Helmut Kohl. The stage would be set for another great battle between the politicians, central bankers and the markets. In Europe today monetary policy is a continuation of war by other means. We can only hope that this battle will be the last.

Michael Portillo answers critics, including Tories, of the demonisation of new Labour

The Conservative Party's campaign to win the next election has two vital components. The first is to emphasise the achievements of our years in government and our plans to carry forward our programme. The second is to make plain to people the risk to the nation's success that "new" Labour represents.

Daily, this Government announces new policies and initiatives that will make life better in our country. I recently announced £4 billion of new defence contracts, which will both ensure that we can defend ourselves in the future, and provide a boost to jobs in our world-class defence industries. Last week, Peter Lilley introduced innovative methods of ensuring that taxpayers' money is spent in looking after the most needy in our society, rather than frittered away on benefit fraudsters. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is introducing a wide range of new policies to protect the public from criminals: John Gummer has announced new targets for protecting our environment, and so it goes on.

Every day that passes, we are taking forward our positive ideas, based on firm principles that have served our country well during these last 17 years. We know what we stand for, we know what we want our country to achieve, and

we are implementing policies to build on our success.

The results speak for themselves. World opinion now praises our economy as being the most successful in Europe. We are well placed to meet the challenges that the new millennium will bring.

Within a year, the country will have the opportunity to choose the government that will lead Britain into that new millennium. Voters will be offered the chance to replace this successful Conservative Government with a Labour administration. Because the stakes are so high, it is more important than ever that the electorate should be in a position to make a well-informed choice.

The "new" Labour Party hides behind smiles and soundbites. But new Labour promises new taxes, new powers to trade unions, new powers to Brussels and new constitutional upheaval. That is

why a month or so ago the Conservative Party began its "New Labour — New Danger" advertising campaign. I can understand why some people, including some Conservative MPs, regret that we have to mount a campaign that attacks our opponents. But we have to expose the reality and make the dangers clear.

New Labour, to Clare Short's horror, has become obsessed with instant reactions to the advice of admen and focus groups. That leads Mr Blair to use words that appeal to everyone, but which tell us nothing about what Labour would do in office. Favourite adjectives are "new", "young" and "fair". Everyone wants a "fair" Britain, but views about what is fair vary. Clare Short thinks that it means higher taxes for those on £30,000 a year. Does Mr Blair agree?

The fatuous use of language by the Labour Party, and the reduction of complex thoughts to soundbites, and even monosyllables, insults the electorate, whether or not it misleads it.

The Conservatives have to reveal what lies beneath. Clare Short received enough votes to place her third in the Shadow Cabinet poll, so her views clearly represent a majority in the Parliamentary Labour Party. And since Ms Short knows Mr Blair a good deal better than most of us, her mistrust of him and belief that he is manipulated by "the people who live in the dark" ought to weigh with us.

New Labour's desire to avoid real issues was demonstrated by a report in Sunday's *Observer*. "Signs of recovery in the economy, house prices and consumer confidence are now apparent. [This] has prompted Mr Blair to appoint one of his young MPs,

Alan Milburn, to the task of undermining Tory claims of a sustainable recovery." This is the first time in British political history that a party has created a spokesman whose job it is to undermine the national morale.

At the beginning of our summer campaign, we developed a pictorial representation of the new danger posed by new Labour. It is the pair of red eyes, eyeing your money, your job and your mortgage.

When Clare Short gave her interview to the *New Statesman*, she broke new ground. Not in serving party spokesmen attacked the party leader so clearly and so frontally. Her leader was being manipulated, she said.

Our response wrote itself. Mr Blair's face is the face of new Labour. His is the smile of reassurance. From his lips come the ear-piercing soundbites. On the face of new Labour we put the red eyes symbolising danger.

It is a graphic image to warn voters that they should listen not only to what they hear from Mr Blair, but also to what they hear from those who know him and know what is being done to him: to heed the words of Clare Short.

The author is Secretary of State for Defence.

The eyes have it — not the lips

Under our starless skies

Light pollution has obscured the stars and all that they signify

We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars. When Oscar Wilde tossed that immortal scrap into *Lady Windermere's Fan*, it was 1891. A century later, the image does not work. Any part of Britain sophisticated enough to have gutters will have no view whatsoever of the stars: it will be so garishly overlit that even Venus cannot compete, let alone the Milky Way. The prospect from the average gutter by night is of a neon and sodium haze pierced by golden McDonald's arches, improbable pink skyscrapers, winking corporate logos, the floodlit dereliction of construction sites and the surly, fearful rotweller-lights of nervous householders.

It is called "light pollution", and is not confined to cities. On a clear night, a satellite picture of mainland Britain shows very few areas which do not glare relentlessly at the sky: darkness rules only over Dartmoor, parts of Cornwall and Wales, the Yorkshire Moors, bits of Lincolnshire, slivers of East Anglia, the Border Country and the Highlands of Scotland. Over the greater part of the land, sprawling conurbations, suburbs, motorways, public buildings, bridges and industrial sites surround themselves with garish lighting. Most of it is so badly designed that it throws nearly as much light upwards as downwards. Against this, even the brightest moon is an anaemic anachronism, and the stars have no chance at all.

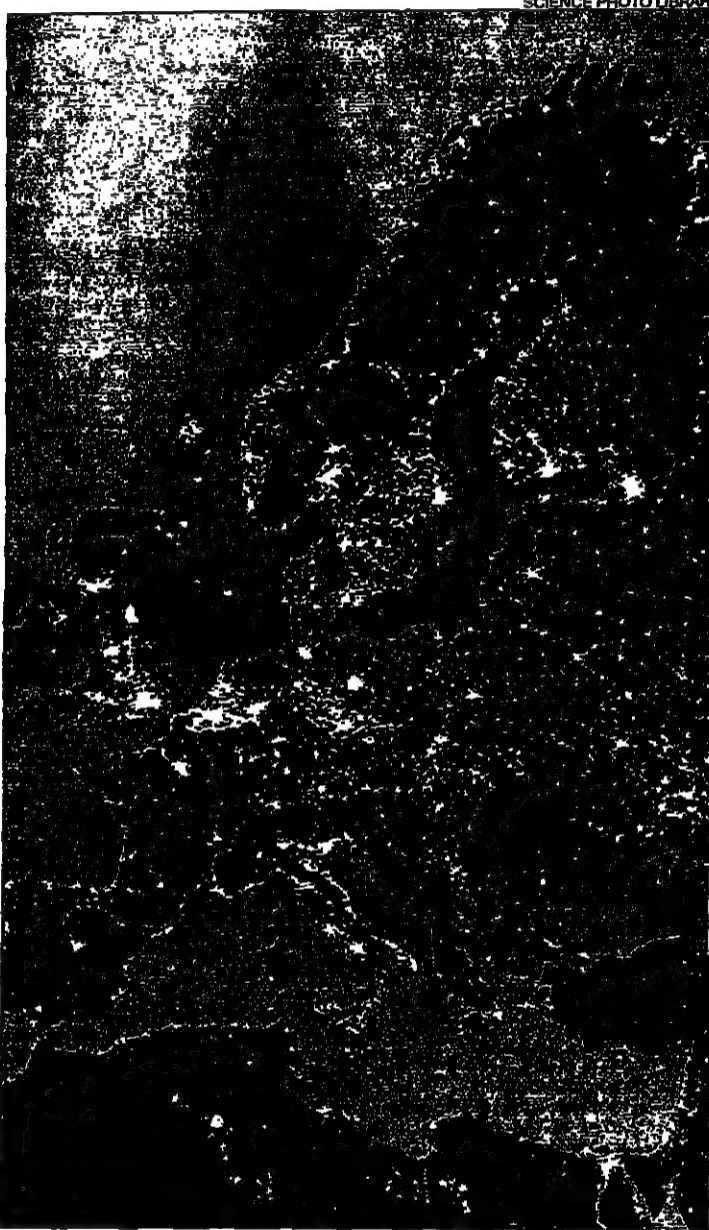
There are industrial farms with cold sad lighting along their grim aisles and barns; power stations shine across tracts of wild coast, rural housing estates install bright suburban lighting as a matter of course. Even old villages, where inhabitants for centuries passed quietly through the night with lanterns, have street lighting imposed on them by fussy councils. Householders, conned by the industry, surround their homes with ultra-bright "security" lights, which actually (as even the Home Office Crime Prevention Unit admits) make life easier for burglars, who can move freely around in the deep shadows at the edges of these blinding corridors. Yet 20 years ago it was a commonplace of village life

that you did not go down the lane after dusk without slipping a torch in your pocket; as for outside lighting, few people bothered to switch on the dim iron lantern in the porch unless they positively expected company. It was a velvet, solemn darkness that fell each night: a full moon gave useful light as well as inspiration, a distant lighthouse might loom beyond the cliffs, and the church tower's shape carved a black ancient shape against the stars.

There are still such villages, but they grow rarer every year and most of them have a view of something overlit. If they are lucky, at least it is only the church floodlit into Disneyland unreality, the fretful flashing of security lamps and the Big House's electronically trig-

gered runway-style drive lights. If they are unlucky, they have some more obtrusive glare on the horizon, ensuring that no star can be seen until it is at its zenith. London blots out most of the stars for 50 miles around it, and tens of millions of homes will never — short of a catastrophic national power cut — lie naked to a real night sky. Thus, in cities and in the countryside, we have lost something precious without ever deciding to. The stars have been taken from us by default.

These things have been pointed out energetically for some years now by the UK Dark Skies campaign, by the British Astronomical Association and by the Council for the Protection of Rural England. Even the Government's own Rural White Paper last year mentioned the value of wild unlit landscapes. However, regulation and law never caught up with technology, and light is still not regulated as a pollutant or something that needs planning permission. This is historically understandable: electric light is a very new commodity and a marvellous one. There is no point being stupidly romantic: the generations who lived before with fragile gas-mantles, smelly paraffin or guttering candles would fall about laughing at the idea of the blessed electric light ever becoming regarded as a pollutant. Nor can the Second World War blackouts have helped: when Vera Lynn sang



Europe by night, glaring back at the stars

"When the lights go on again all over the world", it was something devoutly to be wished for.

But now they have, and we have to acknowledge that overlighting is worse than a nuisance. The Dark Skies lobby is right (even if its name does make it sound disconcertingly like something in one of Dr Brian Mawhinney's B-movie election campaigns). Its voice should be listened to more attentively, and particularly now, because it transpires that large tranches of the money released into potty projects by the National Lottery will go to increase and intensify this plague of man-made light. Floodlighting public structures — usually in chemical-sweetie colours — is one of the current vogues of authorities and companies, and of the kind of "artist" who is never happier than

when blowing several millions of someone else's money. The Millennium Commission in particular is bombarded with requests for money to light up skyscrapers, city centres, bridges, everything.

Croydon's planned "Skyline" project will have bright pink and purple buildings; already approved is a blaze of laser luridly over Portsmouth Harbour, and all over the country churches and castles are considered incomplete without a set of ugly lamps on gables pointing up at them, as if they were Dame Barbara Cartland's unwilling to be photographed without their personal uplighter to smooth out the wrinkles. Sometimes this backfire, take, for instance, Caernarvon Castle, which is twenty times as impressive on the nights when the toy-fort lighting fails and

it broods black and grim over the Seint River. But as the money sloshes aimlessly around the lottery system, and there are no more big new buildings to sop it up, there will be more and more of this useless lighting-up of existing ones. Of course it will be pretty at first, and a novelty; but we will grow sick of it, and the pinks and purples and virulent greens will blaze on for far too many hours each night, and we will be wretched, without quite knowing why, as the stars vanish and leave us in our swamp of neurotic pagan vainglory.

It is not just the wastefulness that so dismays, although it is wasteful. Nor is it just the ill-effects of unnatural light on wildlife, although when the Sizewell B reactor site was throwing a hideous glare over this part of Suffolk, there was serious concern at the Minster bird reserve over batted migrants and disrupted nesting patterns. Nor is it just the effect on the science of astronomy — which has always depended partly on enthusiastic amateurs at home. Least of all is it a mere case of sniffy middle-class aesthetic values, as expressed by those of us who can afford to nip off to Provence or Tuscany for the holidays if we want to see Orion and the Pleiades.

No: beyond all these things, it matters at a deeper level. A religious life, if you like, romantic, if you prefer to sneer. I honestly believe that obscuring the night sky from the majority of people in Britain will have — is having — a negative, depressing, dangerous effect. I say plainly that I believe that in a deep and primitive way, these heavenly bodies have always served an essential psychological purpose for human beings, and that I would be very unhappy to allow a child to grow up, or an adult to live permanently, in circumstances that make it impossible to see the moon and stars overarching the workaday world on a cold, clear night.

There you are: cards on the table. I stand unveiled as a New Age loony. The lighting industry and the municipal meeklers can dismiss me and blaze on, resisting all attempts to reform road lighting designs, limit the hours of corporate dazzle to early evening, and explode the fallacy that what is neon-lit is somehow safe. They can carry on until all Britain glows unhealthily, all round the clock.

Unless, of course, enough of us feel moved — or inspired by a holiday glimpse of stars — to annoy our MPs and councillors on the subject and keep telling them that it is stupid to squander a new blessing so recklessly that we deprive ourselves of a far older one.

Slim margin

WEIGHT TROUBLE has hit Miss Universe. The Venezuelan Alicia Machado was awarded the title in May this year, when she was a trim 8st 1lb. Soon afterwards, however, a televised interview revealed that she may have overfed on the fatty shank of victory.

The Miss Venezuela Institute



Too much of a good thing

hauled her in to be weighed. The scales told the story: more than 9st. "Those six kilos are not good for the image of Miss Universe," she was told. "They will have to go."

"We're always very watchful," says Ivan Martinez of the Institute. "We didn't give her orders, we gave her suggestions." The suggestions included rigorous sessions in the Iron People gym with Patricia Ferber, a former Venezuelan body-building champion.

These will start on Tuesday, as soon as Miss Machado returns to Caracas after filming swimsuit advertisements in Los Angeles. Ferber sounds maternal when discussing her ward. "She has no weight problems," she rumbles. "She is a very disciplined girl."

Before the competition, Miss Machado lost 18lb by forswearing ice-cream and arepas (buttery maize pancakes), and by submitting to four hours of daily exercise and a straitened diet of chicken, fish, fruit, vegetables and water.

• Sir Tim Rice, lyricist and

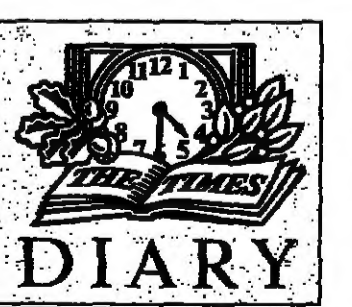
Nashville, Tennessee. He intends to master the hayseed arts of country and western music as guest of a band called the Mavericks. He often wondered about his exceedingly tight trousers.

Pong protest

STEER CLEAR of Westminster at lunchtime tomorrow. A protest group accompanied by a town crier will be making its way to the



"Craving for money?"



Department of the Environment to present a frightful bucket of decomposing offal to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary. Its leader will come dressed as the stinking Titan Arum lily, which repelled the visitors it attracted to Kew recently. "The bucket will be sealed until we reach the steps of the department," says Margaret Brown (the Titan Arum), "then we will cause a stink all over Whitehall." The protest by residents of Torrington in Devon concerns the obnoxious smell of a local rendering plant.

Curry favours

AS SOON AS Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Mahatma's grandson, had

dent Mandela as India's new Ambassador to South Africa, he took himself off for an eye-watering curry.

He hosted a celebratory lunch at a restaurant called the Raj. One guest commented that the food served there was an "Anglicised version of Indian food". Mr Gandhi, however, was delighted with the splendours of the landour.

Bike on

HELL'S ANGELS are tearing their beards out over a psychedelic musical which opens at a small West London theatre this month. They have threatened legal action to en-



sure that *Kiss the Sky* doesn't show them in a poor light.

References to Hell's Angels in the piece, written by Jim Cartwright, were deemed inappropriate by lawyers representing the hairy minority. The Bush Theatre then found that the name Hell's Angels was not registered under any copyright. But perhaps fearing that the bikers might bring monkey-wrenches instead of lawyers to the negotiating table, the management agreed to delete the word Hell's from the script and refer only to Angels. Yesterday, the Angels were on the road, unavailable for comment. Thank goodness.

Wearing thin

MATERNITY WEAR is beginning to exercise women priests. In this week's *Church Times*, the issue is given lengthy coverage. "Clerical maternity wear remains thin on the ground," explains the paper. "A cassock or alb — at first sight the ideal cover-up — will in reality ride up several inches at the front over an expanding bump." Suitable weekday wear is apparently even harder to come by. "You're looking," said the manager.



Bumping along

of cassocks to clergymen. "I don't know how many clergymen are of child-bearing age. But I expect they will go and buy skirts from Mothercare, and wear looser clerical blouses on top. A lot of ours are deliberately cut loosely, anyway. Perhaps they could wear dungarees."